

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

REPORT

OF THE

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

POOR WHITE QUESTION.

Printed by Order of the House of Assembly.

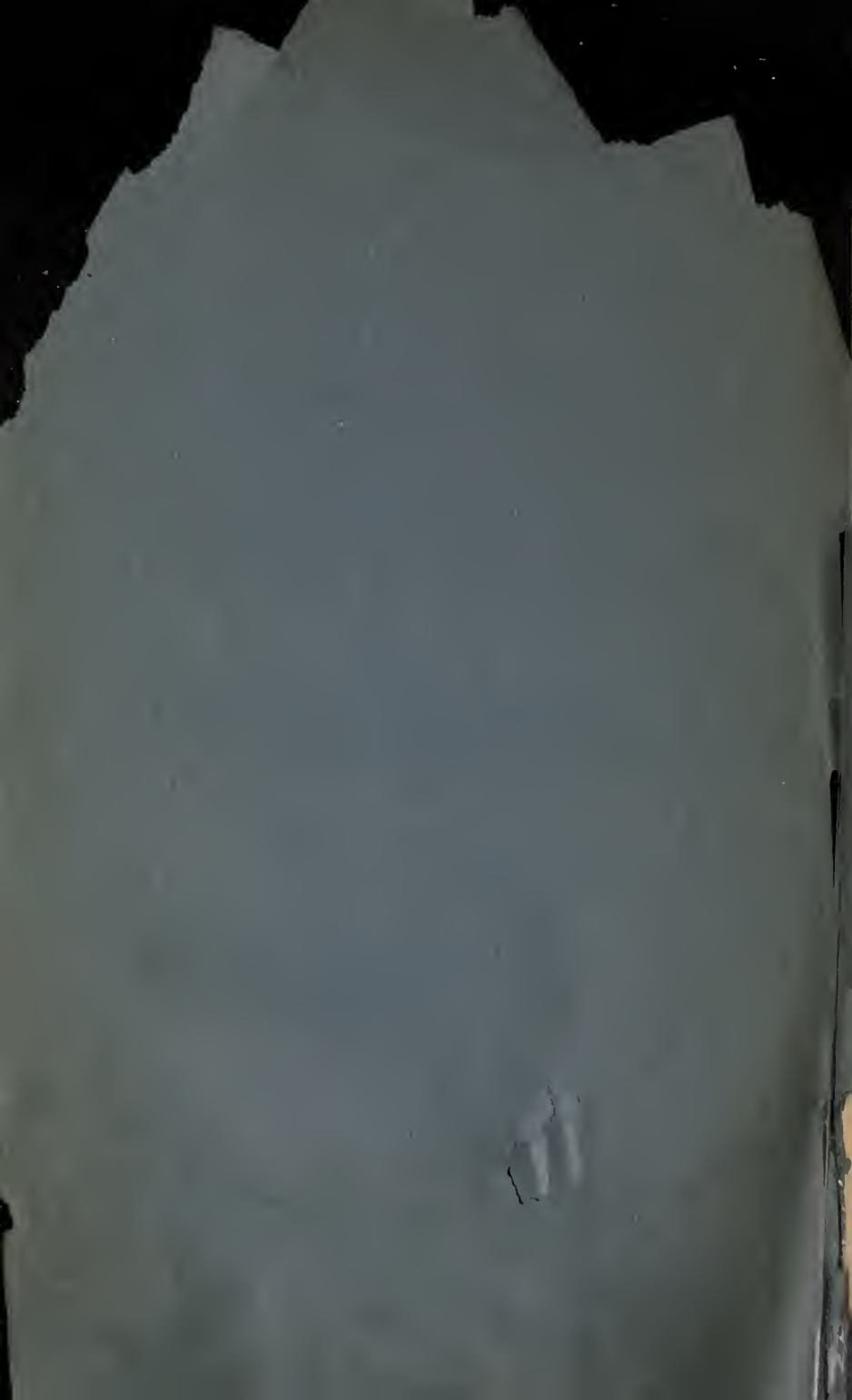
JULY, 1906

CAPE TOWN:

THE TIMES LIMITED, KEEROM STREET.

1906.

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ORDERS OF THE HOUSE.

31st May, 1906.

ORDERED : That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into and report upon the Poor White Question, with power to take evidence and call for papers : and that it be an instruction to the Committee to report specially as to the best means of placing such persons under supervision on the soil, or of otherwise dealing with the question : the Committee to consist of Messrs. Malan, Cloete, Kuhn, Sauer, H. S. van Zyl, Cartwright, Abrahamson, Orpen and the Commissioner of Public Works.

13th June, 1906.

ORDERED : That the Committee have power to confer and interchange evidence with a similar Committee of the Legislative Council.

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REPORT

OF THE

SELECT COMMITTEE appointed by Order of the House of Assembly, dated the 31st May, 1906, to inquire into and report upon the Poor White Question, with power to take evidence and call for papers; and that it be an instruction to the Committee to report specially as to the best means of placing such persons under supervision on the soil, or of otherwise dealing with the question; the Committee to consist of Messrs. MALAN, CLOETE, KUHN, SAUER, H. S. VAN ZYL, CARTWRIGHT, ABRAHAMSON, ORPEN and the COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC WORKS.

In submitting their Report on the Poor Whites Question, with the evidence taken, your Committee beg to acknowledge the assistance they have received from the perusal of the evidence taken by a similar Committee appointed by the Legislative Council, with whom they exchanged slips of the evidence, according to a resolution of both Houses. Your Committee have examined a number of witnesses, whose evidence is appended, and have carefully considered the whole question submitted to them, and now beg to submit their report, as follows:—

(1) Your Committee regret to state that the conviction has been forced upon them that the number of Poor Whites is increasing, and that the problem of finding a solution is daily assuming a more serious aspect. The return handed in by the Hon. J. A. C. Graaff, M.L.C., shows that there is a large number of families of Poor Whites now in different towns who desire to go back to the land. To these

must be added those scattered all over the country, living under conditions which render the proper education of their children an almost insoluable problem.

(2) Your Committee find one of the main causes which has contributed to the coming into being of this class of people to be the want of proper education. The conditions of life in a sparsely populated non-agricultural country like the interior of South Africa, are undoubtedly favourable to the development of a type of character peculiar to the pioneer. Strength, self-reliance and courage are its chief qualities, but without education people of this class often become unfit for the more strenuous struggle for existence which arises with the increase of the population, and too often they become the victims of circumstances, such as periodical droughts. Once down they are unable to rise again without assistance, and they gradually lose their self-respect.

(3) The question then arises, what should be done to assist these people? In general the reply is, that they should be trained and educated. To do that they must be brought together under favourable influences. This is a much simpler problem as regards the young than the older generation. The children should be collected as far as possible in schools, supplemented where possible by industrial training, and considering the difficulty that at present exists of obtaining suitable teachers of schools in up-country districts, the Government should take steps to have more teachers locally trained, either by establishing local training institutions or by granting special facilities to Poor Whites under the present pupil teachers system.

(4) In dealing with the children of the Poor Whites, your Committee beg to ask special consideration for the evidence given by Mr. McJannett, the Principal of the Industrial School for Indigent Boys, at Uitenhage. This institution was founded

by a committee of the Presbytery of the Dutch Reformed Church, of which the Rev. D. J. Pienaar, of Uitenhage, is the energetic and untiring secretary. The institution is supported by grants out of the Treasury under school regulations, approved of by both Houses of Parliament, according to the Education Act of 1865. These grants and the proceeds of the sale of the articles manufactured by the lads in the institute, suffice to keep it going. The land on which this Institution is established is vested in the Graaff-Reinet Presbytery of the Dutch Reformed Church.

Your Committee is satisfied that excellent work is being done in this institute, and would recommend its extension by providing accommodation for at least 150 boys.

(5) An Institution of a similar character has recently been started at Adelaide, with Mr. Liebenberg as Principal, who received his training in the Institution at Uitenhage. Your Committee beg strongly to recommend the founding of similar institutions in other centres. The peculiar circumstances of these lads render it essential that they should receive their training in an institute under proper discipline and moral control.

Your Committee find that these institutions are only open to indigent children and that the children of parents who are not quite destitute are entirely shut out from them. As there is a very large class of white people in this Colony who are just on the border line of Poor Whites, and whose children can only be saved from actually becoming Poor Whites by education, and especially industrial education, your Committee very strongly recommend that provision should be made for the establishment of industrial institutions for such children, making each child pay according to the means of its parents. Your Committee feel sure that this will be an effectual way of preventing hundreds of people from becoming Poor Whites

(6) At Graaff-Reinet there are two Homes for Indigent Girls, one under Act No. 24 of 1895 and another under the school regulations for Indigent Children. Your Committee find that clause three of the said Act is so strictly interpreted that Miss Möller, the matron, has much difficulty in securing sufficient girls to fill her Home, and they would suggest, if possible, the amalgamation of the two institutions, according to the suggestion of the Superintendent-General of Education, and that additional Homes for the training of indigent white girls should be established, with local assistance, while retaining the provisions of Act No. 24 of 1895.

(7) The public service is making a larger use of Colonial born men than formerly, but your Committee is persuaded that more could be done in this direction. Important evidence on this point was given by Mr. Thornton, Locomotive Superintendent of the Midland System. In the workshops and steam shed at Uitenhage there are 615 Colonial born workmen against 334 non-Colonial. The Colonial born, however, largely belong to the unskilled class. From the evidence led, your Committee is satisfied that the State gets value for its money in employing these men, and they would urge the employment of Poor Whites, specially the younger generation wherever possible, not only in the Railway workshops and in the traffic branches, but also in the Police forces, including the Cape and Mounted Police.

(8) Your Committee have also inquired into the important question of the employment of Poor Whites in mines, and they believe that, with sympathetic management, a wide opening for this class will be found in this direction, especially if the suggestion of Mr. Oats is carried out, that mine managers be asked to institute a system of apprenticeship by which young men will be trained as competent miners. According to the evidence of Mr. C. Searle, the employment of Poor Whites in the leather industry has proved a complete success.

(9) But there remains the question of dealing with those who desire to live on the land, and who will sink lower and become a drag on the State unless effective steps are taken to arrest their downward progress. The Labour Colony of the Dutch Reformed Church at Kakamas, along the Orange River, affords a most instructive object lesson of what can be done in this direction. Your Committee have had the benefit of the valuable testimony of the Rev. B. P. J. Marchand, the Chairman of the Synodical Commission for Labour Colonies, Mr. D. de V. Rabie, and others, and they do not hesitate to express their belief that in the establishment of similar Labour Colonies in different parts of the country is one of the most promising ways of dealing with this difficult problem.

(10) Before entering on the consideration of the best means by which this can be attained, your Committee desire to express their appreciation of the excellent work which is being done by the Labour Colony at Kakamas. The educational effect of this Colony will probably be felt throughout the whole of the North-Western districts, and the results already obtained serve as a powerful encouragement to go forward. They believe, however, that it will be wise to separate the offices of minister of religion and temporal superintendent of the Labour Colony. Strict supervision should be kept, and the Colonist must be made clearly to understand that the Labour Colony is a *Labour* Colony, and that no Colonist is to be supported in the supply of his daily wants by charity. Whilst recognizing the difficulties which have prevented the establishment of industrial schools at Kakamas, your Committee are convinced that means should be devised to overcome these difficulties, and that an industrial school on the lines of the one at Uitenhage should be founded at no distant date. Your Committee cannot lay too much stress on the conviction born in upon

their minds that such a Labour Colony is only a means to an end, namely, the training and education of the Colonists, and that the rising generation thereof must be trained for other walks of life, seeing that it is impossible that more than one family can find a livelihood on the allotted plots.

Industrious settlers, who have improved their condition by their stay at the Labour Colony, and have had their children educated, should, moreover, be encouraged to leave the settlement, thereby making room for other Poor Whites. One way of doing this would be to offer them unoccupied Crown Land, of which they could, on easy terms, become absolute owners.

(11) Your Committee find that the Colony at Kakamas can be extended in two ways:

(a) By extending the south furrow to the farm Hartebeest River Mond, which belongs to Government; and

(b) By building the north furrow, and bringing it on to Paarden Island. They are convinced that Parliament would be taking a practical step in the right direction by granting Hartebeest River Mond and Paarden Island, if the island be Government land, to the Synodical Commission for this purpose.

Your Committee desire to recommend to Parliament the favourable consideration of advancing a further loan to the Kakamas Labour Colony Commission for the purpose of building the necessary furrows, making improvements and utilizing the water forelectrical power to be applied for industrial purposes in connection with an Industrial School.

(12) Your Committee would respectfully urge on Parliament the consideration of a scheme by which the establishment of Labour Colonies on similar lines as at Kakamas in different parts of the country will be facilitated. The essential conditions of such a scheme to be:

(a) The establishment of the Colony should be undertaken by a religious body, firstly

because the class of people who will constitute the Colony. require moral and religious supervision ; and secondly, because such a body will undertake the task in a spirit of enthusiasm, which is essential to its success, but is foreign to any purely Government undertaking.

No person shall, however, be ejected from enjoyment of the full rights and privileges appertaining to the inhabitants of any Labour Colony merely by reason of difference in religious faith from the tenets of the Religious Organization inaugurating such Colony.

- (b) Any religious body undertaking such a work must be prepared to put a substantial amount on its own account into the venture when it applies to Government for assistance : say one-third of the capital required.
- (c) The persons to be taken into these Labour Colonies to be British subjects of European origin who are domiciled in this Colony and who have been reduced to a condition of great indigence from which they are unable to raise themselves or their families without outside assistance, the object of the scheme being not the establishment of land settlements, but the solving of our own Poor Whites question.
- (d) As regards the tenure upon which the land of such Labour Colonies should be held, no general rule should be laid down for all settlements, but each case should be decided upon its own merits.
- (e) The constitution of a Central Board consisting of nominees of the Government and nominees of Religious Bodies recognized as actively undertaking and maintaining Labour Colonies as contemplated in this Report.

Such Board to advise the Government upon proposals for grants of land, financial grants, loans or other assistance to any Labour Colony, as well as upon any other matters which the Government may refer to them.

(f) The constitution for each Labour Colony of a Local Board of Management, upon which the Government shall have a representative.

(g) In the case of any free grants of land or its equivalent made by the Government for the establishment of a Labour Colony, such land or its equivalent shall be vested in the Trustees representing the said Labour Colony, of which Trustees the Surveyor-General shall be one.

Your Committee strongly urge that the House should consider the advisability of making loans on the Sinking Fund principle to religious bodies who are prepared to comply with the above conditions, and satisfy the Government as to their stability and ability to give effect to them; and further, of considering legislation this Session to give effect to these recommendations.

(13) In certain parts of the Colony, such as Knysna, Crown Land exists suitable for agricultural purposes and available for the settlement of persons of the Poor White class. Your Committee would recommend the utilization of such land as a further means towards the solution of the question under consideration, and would suggest that special terms in regard to the occupation of the land should be made in view of the special circumstances of the case, and that the aid of some recognized religious body or local committee should be obtained in the management of any such settlement that may be established.

(14) Your Committee are of opinion that, *mutatis mutandis*, the principles indicated in this Report should be applied to Industrial Institutions such as have been mentioned.

(15) In conclusion, your Committee would again point out that these Labour Colonies offer no final

solution of the question, what shall become of the Poor Whites and their children. These children should be trained for service in the Railways, Post Office, Police, other public services and walks of life. To provide land for all these people is expensive, and neither the State nor the Church can be expected to do so. It is, however, possible to open our public service to them, and to provide for their children an education and training which will qualify them to perform a useful function in the body politic.

F. S. MALAN,

Chairman.

Committee Rooms,

House of Assembly,

16th July, 1906.

RAPPORT

VAN HET

GEKOZEN COMITÉ aangesteld door Resolutie van de Wetgevende Vergadering van 31 Mei 1906 om onderzoek te doen naar en te rapporteeren op de Arme Blanken kwestie met macht om getuigenis in te winnen en om papieren te vragen; en dat het een instructie zij aan het Comité om speciaal te rapporteeren omtrent de beste middelen om zoodanige personen onder behoorlijke toezicht op den grond te plaatsen, of anderszins met de zaak te handelen; het Comité te bestaan uit de heeren MALAN, CLOETE, KUHN, SAUER, H. S. VAN ZIJL, CARTWRIGHT, ABRAHAMSON, ORPEN, en de COMMISSARIS VAN PUBLIEKE WERKEN.

Bij het indienen van hun Rapport op de Arme Blanken Kwestie, met de getuigenis ingewonnen, wenscht uw Comité te erkennen dat zij geholpen werd door het lezen van de getuigenis ingewonnen door de Wetgevende Raad met wien zij ingewonnen getuigenis omruilde, volgens een resolutie van beide Huizen. Uw Comité heeft een aantal getuigen ondervraagd, wier getuigenis hierbij verschijnt, en heeft de gansche kwestie aan hen opgedragen zorgvuldig overwogen en wenscht nu als volgt te rapporteeren.

1 Het spijt uw Comité te moeten erkennen dat zij tot de overtuiging gedwongen werd dat het aantal Arme Blanken aan 't vermeerderen is en dat de kwestie van een oplossing dagelijks ernstiger wordt. De opgave ingediend door den Ed. J. A. C. Graaff, L. W. R., toont dat er vele families van Arme Blanken zijn in verschillende

dorpen die terug wenschen te gaan naar het land. Bij hen moet geteld worden al degenen verspreid over het land die onder zoodanige condities wonen dat de opvoeding van hunne kinderen bijna een onoplosbaar zaak wordt.

2 Uw Comité vindt dat gebrek aan behoorlijke opvoeding een der voornaamste oorzaken is van het ontstaan van deze klas menschen. De toestanden van het leven in een dun bevolkt land, waar men niet aan landbouw doet, zooals het binnenland van Zuid Afrika, zijn ongetwijfeld geschikt voor het ontwikkelen van een vorm van karakter eigen aan den voortrekker. Sterkte, zelfvertrouwen en moed zijn deszelfs voornaamste eigenschappen, maar zonder opvoeding worden menschen van deze klas dikwijls onbekwaam voor de zwaarder strijd om 't bestaan die ontstaat wanneer de bevolking vermeerdert, en te dikwijls worden zij de slachtoffers van omstandigheden zooals periodieke droogten. Zijn zij eerst eenmaal ten onder, dan kunnen zij niet opstaan zonder hulp, en langzamerhand verloren zij hun zelf-respekt.

3 De vraag ontstaat dus, wat moet gedaan worden om deze menschen te helpen? In 't algemeen is het antwoord: zij moeten opgeleid en opgevoed worden. Om dit te doen moeten zij saamgebracht worden onder gunstige invloeden. Dit is een gemakkelijker zaak ten opzichte van het jonge geslacht dan het oudere geslacht. De kinderen behooren zoover mogelijk vergaderd te worden in scholen, en aldaar, waar mogelijk, ook industricele opleiding genieten. En, in acht nemende hoe moeilijk het thans is om geschikte onderwijzers te krijgen voor scholen in de binnenlandsche distrikten, behoort het Gouvernement stappen te nemen om meer onderwijzers plaatselijk te laten opleiden, hetzij door het stichten van plaatselijke opleidings instituten of door aan Arme Blanken speciale gerieven te geven onder het tegenwoordige leerling-onderwijzers stelsel.

4. In 't handelen met de zaak van de kinderen van de Arme Blanken wenscht uw Comité te vragen dat speciale aandacht zal gewijd worden aan de getuigenis van den heer McJannett, Hoofd van de Industriele School voor Arme Kinderen te Uitenhage. Deze Inrichting werd gesticht door een Comité van de Ring van de Nederduitsche Kerk, waarvan Ds. D. J. Pienaar, van Uitenhage, de ijvervolle en onvermoeide secretaris is. De inrichting wordt ondersteund door toelagen uit de schatkist onder school-regulaties, goedgekeurd door beide Huizen van 't Parlement, volgens de Onderwijs Wet van 1865. Deze toelagen en de opbrengst van de verkochte artikels, door de jongens in het instituut gemaakt, zijn genoeg om het aan den gang te houden. De grond waarop dit Instituut gesticht is berust bij de Graaff-Reinetsche Ring van de Nederduitsche Gereformeerde Kerk.

Uw Comité is overtuigd dat uitstekend werk in deze inrichting gedaan wordt en beveelt aan dat dezelve uitgebreid worde door voorziening te maken voor minstens 150 jongens.

5. Een inrichting van dergelijke aard is onlangs te Adelaide gesticht; de principaal is de heer Liebenberg die opgeleid werd aan het Uitenhaagsche Instituut. Uw Comité beveelt ten sterkste aan dat dergelijke inrichtingen in andere centrumms gesticht worden. De bijzondere omstandigheden van deze jongens maken het absoluut noodzakelijk dat zij hunne opleiding zullen ontvangen in een inrichting onder behoorlijke tucht en zedelijk beheer.

Uw Comité vindt dat deze inrichtingen slechts open zijn voor nooddrufelige kinderen en dat de kinderen van ouders die niet absoluut behoeftig zijn geheel-en-al uitgesloten worden. Daar er een zeer groote klas van Blanke menschen in deze Kolonie zijn die zoo amper Arme Blanken zijn en wier kinderen slechts door opvoeding, en vooral industriele opvoeding, gered kunnen worden van werkelijke Arme Blanken te worden, beveelt uw Comité ten sterkste aan dat voorziening behoort

gemaakt te worden voor het oprichten van industriele inrichtingen voor zoodanige kinderen, elk kind te betalen volgens de bevoegdheid van zijne ouders. Uw Comité gelooft vast dat hierdoor honderden van menschen teruggehouden zullen worden van Arme Blanken te worden.

6. Te Graaff-Reinet zijn er twee Tehuizen voor behoefte Meisjes, één onder Wet No. 24 van 1895 en de ander onder de school-regulaties voor Behoeftige Kinderen. Uw Comité vindt dat artikel drie van gezegde Wet zoo streng wordt uitgelegd dat Mej. Möller, de huismoeder, veel moeite heeft om genoeg meisjes te krijgen om haar Tehuis te vullen, en uw Comité wil aan de hand geven dat de twee inrichtingen, indien mogelijk, geamalgameerd worden volgens de suggestie van den Superintendent-Generaal van Onderwijs, en dat meer Tehuizen voor het opleiden van behoeftige arme meisjes opgericht worden met plaatselijke hulp, hoewel met behoud van de bepalingen van Wet No. 24 van 1895.

7. De publieke dienst maakt thans meer gebruik van Koloniaal geboren personen dan voorheen, maar uw Comité is overtuigd dat nog meer in deze richting kan gedaan worden. Belangrijke getuigenis op dit punt werd gegeven door den heer Thornton, Locomotief Superintendent van het Midlandsche Stelsel. In de werkwinkels en stoomshed te Uitenhage zijn er 615 Koloniaal-geboren werklui tegenover 334 niet-Koloniaal. De Koloniaal geborenen, echter, behooren grootendeels tot de onbedrevene klas. Volgens de getuigenis ingewonnen is uw Comité overtuigd dat de Staat door deze menschen te gebruiken waarde krijgt voor zijn geld en zij wenscht aan te dringen op het gebruiken van Arme Blanken, vooral het jonger geslacht, waar ook mogelijk, niet enkel in de spoorweg werkwinkels en in de vervoertakken, maar ook in de politie, insluitende de Kaapsche en Bereden Politie.

8. Uw Comité heeft ook onderzoek ingesteld naar de belangrijke kwestie van het gebruiken van Arme Blanken in mijnen en zij gelooft dat met sympathetisch bestier er voor deze klas menschen een groote opening in deze richting gevonden zal worden, vooral indien de suggestie van den heer Oats uitgevoerd wordt nl.: dat bestierders van mijnen verzocht worden een stelsel van leertijd in te voeren waardoor jonge menschen opgeleid zullen worden als bevoegde mijnwerkers. Volgens de getuigenis van den heer C. Searle is het gebruiken van Arme Blanken in de leder-industrie een volslagen succes.

9. Maar er blijft nog over de kwestie van hoe te handelen met hen die op het land wenschen te wonen en die lager zullen vallen en een last op den Staat worden tenzij stappen genomen worden om te verhinderen dat zij al lager zakken. De Arbeids Kolonie van de Nederduitsche Gereformeerde Kerk te Kakamas, langs de Oranje Rivier is een zeer leerzaam bewijs van wat in deze richting gedaan kan worden. Uw Comité heeft het nut gehad van de belangrijke getuigenis van Ds. B. P. J. Marchand, de Voorzitter van de Synodale Commissie voor Arbeids Koloniën, de heer D. de Vos Rabie en anderen en zij aarzelt niet hun geloof uit te spreken dat het oprichten van dergelijke Arbeids Koloniën in verschillende deelen van het land een der veelbelovendste wijzen is om met deze moeilijke kwestie te handelen.

10. Vóór te overwegen wat de beste middelen zijn waardoor dit verkregen kan worden wenscht uw Comité hun waardeering uit te spreken van het uitstekend werk dat door de Arbeids Kolonie te Kakamas gedaan wordt. Het opvoedend effect van deze Kolonie zal waarschijnlijk door al de Noord-westelijke distrikten gevoeld worden en de uitslag reeds verkregen is een sterke aanmoediging om voort te gaan. Zij gelooft echter dat het verstandig zal zijn de ambten van predikant en seculaire superintendent van de Arbeids Kolonie

van elkaar te scheiden. Streng opzicht behoort gehouden te worden en de Kolonist zal duidelijk moeten verstaan dat de Arbeids Kolonie een *Arbeids* Kolonie is en dat geen Kolonist uit bloote milddadigheid geholpen zal worden om zijne dagelijksche behoeften te krijgen. Erkennende de moeilijkheden die het stichten van Industriele Scholen te Kakamas verhinderd hebben is uw Comité nochtans overtuigd dat een plan beraamd moet worden om deze moeilijkheden te overkomen en dat een Industriele School op de basis van de eene te Uitenhage binnen kort behoort gesticht te worden. Uw Comité kan niet te veel nadruk leggen op de overtuiging dat zij heeft dat zulk een Arbeids Kolonie slechts een middel tot een doel is namelijk, de opleiding en opvoeding van de Kolonisten, en dat de kinderen van de Kolonisten opgeleid moeten worden voor andere ambten of neringen want het is onmogelijk dat meer dan één familie zijn bestaan kan vinden op een toegekende perceel grond.

Verder behooren werkzame settlers die hun toestand verbeterd hebben door hun verblijf op de Arbeids Kolonie, en wier kinderen opgevoed zijn, aangemoedigd te worden de Kolonie te verlaten, daardoor plaats makende voor andere Arme Blanken. Eén wijze waarop dit verkregen kan worden zou zijn door hen perceelen onbebouwde Kroonland aan te bieden waarvan zij op gemakkelijke termen de werkelijke eigenaars kunnen worden.

11. Uw Comité vindt dat de Kolonie te Kakamas uitgebreid kan worden op tweeërlei wijze :

- (a) Door de Zuid Voor te verlengen tot de plaats Hartebeest Rivier Mond, die aan het Gouvernement behoort ; en
- (b) Door de Noord Voor te bouwen en het te brengen tot Paarde Eiland. Zij is overtuigd dat het Parlement een praktische stap in de rechte richting zal nemen door

Hartebeest Rivier Mond en Paarde Eiland, indien het eiland Gouvernements grond is, aan de Synodale Commissie voor dit doel te geven.

Uw Comité wenscht aan te bevelen dat het Parlement in gunstige overweging neme het voorschieten van een verdere leening aan de Kakamas Arbeids Kolonie Commissie voor het bouwen van de noodige voren, het maken van verbeteringen en het gebruiken van het water voor elektrische kracht te worden aangewend voor industriele doeleinden in verband met een Industriele School.

12. Uw Comité wenscht met alle respekt bij het Gouvernement aan te dringen op het overwegen van een schema waardoor het oprichten van Arbeids Koloniën van dezelfde soort als te Kakamas in andere deelen van de Kolonie vergemakkelijkt zal worden. De voornaamste voorwaarden van zoo 'n schema te zijn:—

(a) Het stichten van de Kolonie moet ondernomen worden door een of ander godsdienstig lichaam, ten eerste omdat de klas personen die de Kolonie zal uitmaken zedelijk en godsdienstig opzicht noodig hebben; en ten tweede, omdat zoo'n lichaam de taak zal ondernemen met die enthousiasme die onontbeerlijk is voor deszelfs succes, maar die ontbreekt bij eenig bloote Gouvernements onderneming.

Geen persoon echter zal ontstoken worden van het genieten van de volle rechten en voorrechten behorende aan de inwoners van eenig Arbeids Kolonieslechts omdat hij niet van hetzelfde geloof is als de Kerk of organisatie die de Kolonie opgericht heeft.

(b) Eenig godsdienstig lichaam dat zoo'n werk wenscht te ondernemen moet bereid zijn een stijve som op zijn eigen rekening in de onderneming te steken wanneer het bij

het Gouvernement aanzoek doet om ondersteuning—zegge één derde van het kapitaal vereischt.

- (c) De personen te worden opgenomen in deze Arbeids Koloniën te zijn Britsche onderdanen van Blanke afkomst die woonachtig zijn in deze Kolonie en die gevallen zijn in een toestand van groote behoefte waaruit zij zichzelven niet kunnen opheffen zonder de hulp van anderen ; het doel van het schema niet te zijn het stichten van nederzettingen op het land, maar het oplossen van ons eigen Arme Blanken kwestie.
- (d) Wat betreft de wijze van grondbezit waarop de grond van zoodanige Arbeids Koloniën gehouden zal worden kan geen algemeene regel neergelegd worden voor alle Koloniën, maar elk geval moet beslist worden op zijne eigene merieten.
- (e) Het stichten van een Centrale Bestuur bestaande uit leden benoemd door het Gouvernement en leden benoemd door Godsdienstige Lichamen erkend als ijverig werkzaam en die Arbeids Koloniën zooals bedoeld in dit Rapport, onderhouden. Zoodanig Bestuur het Gouvernement te adviseeren omtrent voorstellen voor toekenningen van grond, toelagen van geld, leeningen of andere hulp aan eenig Arbeids Kolonie, zoowel als omtrent andere zaken die het Gouvernement naar hen mag verwijzen.
- (f) Het stichten voor elk Arbeids Kolonie van een Plaatselijke Bestuur, waarop het Gouvernement een vertegenwoordiger zal hebben.
- (g) In het geval van eenige vrije toekenningen van grond, of het equivalent daarvan, geschonken door het Gouvernement voor het stichten van een Arbeids Kolonie, zal

zoodanig grond of zijn equivalent berusten bij trustees vertegenwoordigende gezegde Arbeids Kolonie, van welke Trustees de Landmeter-Generaal één zal zijn.

Uw Comité beveelt ten sterkste aan dat het Huis de wenschelijkheid overwege van leeningen te geven op het Delgings Fonds beginsel aan godsdienstige lichamen die bereid zijn te voldoen aan bovengenoemde voorwaarden en het Gouvernement kan overtuigen wat betreft hun geldelijke vermogendheid en bekwaamheid om ze na te komen; en verder het overwegen van wetgeving deze sessie om deze aanbevelingen ten uitvoer te leggen.

13. In zekere deelen van de Kolonie, zooals Knysna, is er Kroonland geschikt voor landbouw en beschikbaar voor 't nederzetten van personen van de Arme Blanken klas. Uw Comité zou het gebruik van zoodanig land aanbevelen als een verder middel tot de oplossing van de kwestie onder bespreking en zou aan de hand geven dat, in acht nemende de speciale omstandigheden van 't geval, speciale voorwaarden ten opzichte van het occupeeren van het land gesteld worden, en dat de hulp van een erkende godsdienstig lichaam of plaatselijk Comité verkregen worde in het bestier van eenig zoodanig nederzetting als moge opgericht worden.

14. Uw Comité is van opinie dat *mutatis mutandis* de beginselen aangeduid in dit Rapport toegepast behooren te worden op zoodanige Industriële Inrichtingen als genoemd zijn.

15. Ten slotte wenscht uwe Comité weder er op te wijzen dat deze Arbeids Koloniën geen finale oplossing is van de kwestie: wat zal worden van de Arme Blanken en hunne kinderen? Deze kinderen behooren opgeleid te worden voor dienst in de Spoorwegen, het Post Kantoor, de Politie en andere publieke diensten en neringen. Om grond te verschaffen voor al deze menschen kost veel, en noch de Staat noch de kerk kan verwacht worden

zulks te doen. Het is echter mogelijk om onze publieke dienst voor hen open te zetten en om aan hunne kinderen een opvoeding en opleiding te geven die hen instaat zal stellen een nuttig werk te verrichten in de samenleving.

F. S. MALAN,
Voorzitter.

Comité Kamer,
Wetgevende Vergadering,
16 Juli 1906.

PROCEEDINGS OF COMMITTEE.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE, appointed by Order of the House of Assembly, dated the 31st May, 1906, to inquire into and report upon the Poor White Question, with power to take evidence and call for papers; and that it be an instruction to the Committee to report specially as to the best means of placing such persons under supervision on the soil, or of otherwise dealing with the question; the Committee to consist of Messrs. MALAN, CLOETE, KUHN, SAUER, H. S. VAN ZYL, CARTWRIGHT, ABRAHAMSON, ORPEN and the COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC WORKS.

Wednesday, 13th June, 1906.

PRESENT :

Mr. Malan.	Mr. Cartwright.
Mr. Cloete.	Mr. Abrahamson.
Mr. Kuhn.	Mr. Orpen.
Mr. Sauer.	The Commissioner of
Mr. H. S. van Zyl.	Public Works.

Clerk read Order of the House, dated the 31st May, 1906, appointing the Committee.

Resolved : That Mr. Malan be Chairman.

The Committee deliberated, and adjourned until Monday, at 10 30 a.m.

Monday, 18th June, 1906.

PRESENT :

Mr. MALAN (Chairman).

Mr. Abrahamson.	The Commissioner of
Mr. Sauer.	Public Works.
Mr. Orpen.	Mr. Cloete.
	Mr. Cartwright.

Clerk read Order of the House, dated the 13th instant, that the Committee have power to confer and interchange evidence with a similar Committee of the Legislative Council.

The Hon. J. A. C. Graaff, M.L.C., was examined, and put in :—

- (1). Copy of Circular addressed to Clergymen on Poor White Question, together with a Form to be filled in.

- (2). Reminder of above Circular.
- (3). Return showing particulars of those places from where replies have come in.
- (4). List of places still outstanding.

The Rev. B. J. P. Marchand, B.A., was examined, and put in :—
Copy of the Regulations governing the Labour Colony at Kakamas in regard to the apportionment of erven there.
[Appendix A.]

The Committee deliberated, and adjourned until Wednesday, at 10.30 a.m.

Wednesday, 20th June, 1906.

PRESENT :

Mr. MALAN (Chairman).

Mr. Cloete.	Mr. Abrahamson.
Mr. Sauer.	Mr. Orpen.
Mr. H. S. van Zyl.	The Commissioner of
Mr. Cartwright.	Public Works.

The Chairman intimated that the Legislative Council and House of Assembly, through the medium of Messages, had arranged for the interchange of slips of the evidence already taken and to be taken by this Committee and of the evidence taken by the Committee of the Legislative Council on Indigent Whites, such evidence to be transmitted through the Clerks of the respective Houses.

Resolved : That in view of the above intimation slips of the evidence already taken and to be taken before this Committee be forwarded, through the Clerk of the House, to the Committee of the Legislative Council on Indigent Whites.

Miss Susannah Möller, Matron, Indigent Home for Girls, Graaff-Reinet, Messrs. John Miller Thornton, Locomotive Superintendent, Midland System, Cape Government Railways, Uitenhage, and William McJannett, Superintendent, Industrial School, Uitenhage, were examined.

The Committee deliberated and adjourned until Friday, at 10.30 a.m.

Friday, 22nd June, 1906.

PRESENT :

Mr. MALAN (Chairman).

Mr. Sauer.	Mr. H. S. van Zyl.
Mr. Abrahamson.	Mr. Cloete.
Mr. Orpen.	The Commissioner of
Mr. Cartwright.	Public Works.

Messrs. Charles Searle, M.L.A., Francis Oats, M.L.A., Dirk de V. Rabie, M.L.A., Isidore Hanau and Francis William Pearce, Assistant Commissioner, Salvation Army, were examined.

Resolved : That there be laid before the Committee the following papers :

Copies of the Report submitted to the Commissioner of Public Works about 1900 on Kakamas Colony by Mr. D. de V. Rabie, M.L.A., and Mr. Litchfield.

The Committee deliberated and adjourned until Tuesday, at 10.30 a.m.

Tuesday, 26th June, 1906.

PRESENT :

Mr. MALAN (Chairman).

Mr. Cloete.

Mr. H. S. van Zyl.

Mr. Abrahamson.

Mr. Orpen.

The Commissioner of
Public Works.

Clerk laid on the Table slips of the evidence given before the Legislative Council Committee on Indigent Whites on the 13th and 19th instant.

Dr. T. Muir, C.M.G., LL.D., M.A., F.R.S., Superintendent-General of Education, was examined.

At this stage the Chairman vacated the Chair.

Resolved : That the Commissioner of Public Works take the Chair.

Mr. F. S. Malan, M.L.A., was examined.

The Committee deliberated, and adjourned until Monday, the 9th July, at 10.30 a.m.

Monday, 9th July, 1906.

PRESENT :

Mr. MALAN (Chairman).

Mr. Cartwright.

Mr. Orpen.

Mr. H. S. van Zyl.

Mr. Saner.

Mr. Abrahamson.

Mr. Cloete.

The Commissioner of
Public Works.

Clerk laid upon the Table slips of the evidence given before the Legislative Council Committee on Indigent Whites on the 26th and 28th June.

Clerk laid upon the Table a letter dated the 2nd instant, from the Secretary to the Prime Minister, forwarding copy of Reports on Kakamas Colony by Messrs. D. de V. Rabie, M.L.A., and H. C. Litchfield.

The Chairman put in :—

(1) Letter from W. McJannett, Superintendent of Industrial School, Uitenhage, dated the 26th June, 1906, giving number of lads who have served an apprenticeship of three years and upwards, from 1st April, 1898, to 26th June, 1906. [Appendix B.]

- (2) Letter from the Superintendent-General of Education, dated the 5th July, 1906, referring to cost of buildings on the site of the Uitenhage Industrial School. [Appendix C.]

The Committee deliberated and adjourned until Thursday next, at 10.30 a.m.

Thursday, 12th July, 1906.

PRESENT :

Mr. MALAN (Chairman).

Mr. Cloete.	Mr. Abrahamson.
Mr. Kuhn.	Mr. Orpen.
Mr. Sauer.	The Commissioner of
Mr. H. S. van Zyl.	Public Works.
Mr. Cartwright.	

Clerk laid upon the Table slips of the evidence given before the Legislative Council Committee on Indigent Whites on the 5th July.

The Chairman submitted a Draft Report as follows :—

In submitting their Report on the Poor Whites Question, with the evidence taken, your Committee beg to acknowledge the assistance they have received from the perusal of the evidence taken by a similar Committee appointed by the Legislative Council, with whom they exchanged slips of the evidence, according to a resolution of both Houses. Your Committee have examined a number of witnesses, whose evidence is appended, and have carefully considered the whole question submitted to them, and now beg to submit their report, as follows :—

- (1) Your Committee regret to state that the conviction has been forced upon them that the number of Poor Whites is increasing, and that the problem of finding a solution is daily assuming a more serious aspect. The return handed in by the Hon. J. A. C. Graaff, M.L.C., shows that there is a large number of families of Poor Whites now in different towns who desire to go back to the land. To these must be added those scattered all over the country, living under conditions which render the proper education of their children an almost insoluble problem.
- (2) Your Committee find that the main cause which has contributed to the coming into being of this class of people to be the want of proper education. The conditions of life in a sparsely populated country like the interior of South Africa, are undoubtedly favourable to the development of a type of character peculiar to the pioneer. Strength self-reliance, and courage are its chief qualities, and with education people of this class have shown themselves capable of becoming useful citizens. But without education they are often unfit for the more strenuous struggle for existence which arises from the increase of the population, and too often they become the victims of circumstances. Once

down they are unable to rise again without assistance, and they gradually lose their self-respect.

- (3) The question then arises, what should be done to assist these people? In general the reply is, that they should be trained and educated. To do that they must be brought together under favourable influences. This is a much simpler problem as regards the young than the older generation.

The children should be collected as far as possible in schools, supplemented where possible by industrial training.

- (4) In dealing with the children of the Poor Whites, your Committee beg to ask special consideration for the evidence given by Mr. McJannett, the Principal of the Industrial School for Indigent Boys at Uitenhage. This institution was founded by a committee of the Presbytery of the Dutch Reformed Church, of which the Rev. D. J. Pienaar, of Uitenhage, is the energetic and untiring secretary. The institution is liberally supported by grants out of the Treasury under school regulations, approved of by both Houses of Parliament, according to the Education Act of 1865. These grants and the proceeds of the sale of the articles manufactured by the lads in the institute, suffice to keep it going. The land on which this Institution is established is vested in the Graaff-Reinet Presbytery of the Dutch Reformed Church.

Your Committee is satisfied that excellent work is being done in this institute, and would recommend its extension by providing accommodation for at least 150 boys.

- (5) An Institution of a similar character has recently been started at Adelaide, with Mr. Liebenberg as Principal, who has received his training in the Uitenhage Institute. Your Committee beg strongly to recommend the founding of similar institutions in other centres. The peculiar circumstances of these lads render it essential that they should receive their training in an institute under proper discipline and moral control.

- (6) At Graaff-Reinet there are two Homes for Indigent Girls, one under Act No. 24 of 1895 and another under the school regulations for Indigent Children. Your Committee find that clause three of the said Act is so strictly interpreted that Miss Möller, the matron, has much difficulty in securing sufficient girls to fill her Home, and they would suggest, if possible, the amalgamation of the two institutions, according to the suggestion of the Superintendent-General of Education, and that additional Homes for the training of Indigent White girls should be established, with local assistance, while retaining the provisions of Act No 24 of 1895.

- (7) The Public Service is making a larger use of Colonial born men than formerly, but your Committee is persuaded that more could be done in this direction. Important evidence on this point was given by Mr. Thornton, Locomotive

Superintendent of the Midland System. In the workshops and steam shed at Uitenhage there are 615 Colonial born workmen against 334 non-Colonial. The Colonial born, however, largely belong to the unskilled class. From the evidence led, your Committee is satisfied that the State gets value for its money in employing these men, and they would urge the employment of Poor Whites, specially the younger generation wherever possible, not only in the Railway workshops and in the traffic branches, but also in the Police forces, including the Cape and Mounted Police.

(8) Your Committee have also inquired into the important question of the employment of Poor Whites in mines, and they believe that, with sympathetic management, a wide opening for this class will be found in this direction, especially if the suggestion of Mr. Oats is carried out, that mine managers be asked to institute a system of apprenticeship by which young men will be trained as competent miners. According to the evidence of Mr. C. Searle, the employment of Poor Whites in the leather industry has proved a complete success.

(9) But there remains the question of dealing with those who desire to live on the land, and who will sink lower and become a drag on the State unless effective steps are taken to arrest their downward progress. The Labour Colony of the Dutch Reformed Church at Kakamas, along the Orange River, affords a most instructive object lesson of what can be done in this direction. Your Committee have had the benefit of the valuable testimony of the Rev. B. P. J. Marchand, the Chairman of the Synodical Commission for Labour Colonies, Mr. D. de V. Rabie, and others, and they do not hesitate to express their belief that in the establishment of similar Labour Colonies in different parts of the Colony is one of the most promising ways of dealing with this difficult problem.

(10) Before entering on the consideration of the best means by which this can be attained, your Committee desire to express their appreciation of the excellent work which is being done by the Labour Colony at Kakamas. The educational effect of this Colony will probably be felt throughout the whole of the North-Western districts, and the results already obtained serve as a powerful encouragement to go forward. They believe, however, that it will be wise to separate the offices of minister of religion and temporal superintendent of the Labour Colony. Strict supervision should be kept, and the Colonist must be made clearly to understand that the Labour Colony is a *Labour* Colony and that no Colonist is to be supported in the supply of his daily wants by charity. Whilst recognizing the difficulties which have prevented the establishment of industrial schools at Kakamas, your Committee are convinced that means should be devised to overcome these difficulties, and that an industrial school on the lines of the

one at Uienhage should be founded at no distant date. Your Committee cannot lay too much stress on the conviction born in upon their minds that such a Labour Colony is only a means to an end, namely, the training and education of the Colonists, and that the rising generation thereof must be trained for other walks of life, seeing that it is impossible that more than one family can find a livelihood on the allotted plots.

(11) Your Committee find that the Colony at Kakamas can be extended in two ways:

- (a) By extending the south furrow to the farm Hartebeest River Mond, which belongs to Government; and
- (b) By building the north furrow, and bringing it on to Paarden Island. They are convinced that Parliament would be taking a practical step in the right direction by granting Hartebeest River Mond and Paarden Island to the Synodical Commission for this purpose.

Your Committee desire to recommend to Parliament the favourable consideration of advancing a further loan to the Kakamas Labour Colony Commission for the purpose of building the necessary furrows, making improvements and utilising the water for electrical power to be applied for industrial purposes in connection with an Industrial School.

(12) Your Committee would respectfully urge on Parliament the consideration of a scheme by which the establishment of Labour Colonies on similar lines as at Kakamas in different parts of the country will be facilitated. The essential conditions of such a scheme to be:

- (a) The establishment of the Colony should be undertaken by a religious body, firstly because the class of people who will constitute the Colony require moral and religious supervision; and secondly, because such a body will undertake the task in a spirit of enthusiasm, which is essential to its success, but is foreign to any purely Government undertaking.
- (b) Any religious body undertaking such a work must be prepared to put a substantial amount on its own account into the venture when it applies to Government for assistance: say one-third of the capital required.
- (c) The persons to be taken into the Labour Colonies to be British subjects of European origin who are domiciled in this Colony and who have been reduced to a condition of great indigence from which they are unable to raise themselves or their families without outside assistance, the object of the scheme being not the establishment of land settlements, but the solving of our own Poor Whites question.
- (d) As regards the tenure upon which the land of such Labour Colonies should be held, no general rule should be laid down for all settlements, but each case should be decided upon its own merits.

Your Committee strongly urge that the House should consider the advisability of making loans on the Sinking Fund

principle to religious bodies who are prepared to comply with the above conditions, and satisfy the Government as to their stability and ability to give effect to them; and, further, of considering legislation this Session to give effect to these recommendations.

- (13) In conclusion, your Committee would again point out that these Labour Colonies offer no final solution of the question, what shall become of the Poor Whites and their children. These children should be trained for service in the Railways, Post Office, Police, other public services and walks of life. To provide land for all these people is expensive, and neither the State nor the Church can be expected to do so. It is, however, possible to open our public service to them, and to provide for their children an education and training which will qualify them to perform a useful function in the body politic.

The Committee deliberated, and adjourned until Monday next at 12 noon.

Monday, 16th July, 1906.

PRESENT :

Mr. MALAN (Chairman).

Mr. Cloete.

Mr. Kuhn.

Mr. Sauer.

Mr. H. S. van Zyl.

Mr. Cartwright.

Mr. Abrahamson.

Mr. Orpen.

The Commissioner of
Public Works.

The Committee proceeded to the consideration of the Draft Report.

Introductory Paragraph and Paragraph One put and agreed to.

On Paragraph Two,

Resolved: In line 1 after "find" to insert "one of"; in the same line to change "cause" into the plural; in line 4 after "populated" to insert "non-agricultural"; in lines 9, 10, and 11 to omit from "and" down to "citizens"; in line 11 after "education" to omit "they are" and substitute "people of this class"; in line 12 after "often" to insert "become"; and in line 15 after "circumstances" to insert "such as periodical droughts."

Paragraph, as amended, put and agreed to.

On Paragraph Three,

Resolved: To add at the end "and considering the difficulty that at present exists of obtaining suitable teachers of schools in up-country districts, the Government should take steps to have more teachers locally trained, either by establishing local training institutions or by granting special facilities to Poor Whites under the present pupil teacher system."

Paragraph, as amended, put and agreed to.

On Paragraph Four,

Resolved: In line 9, after "is" to omit "liberally."

Paragraph, as amended, put and agreed to.

On Paragraph Five,

Resolved: In line 3 after "who" to omit "has"; in line 4 after "the" to insert "institution at"; in the same line after "Uitenhage" to omit "Institute"; and to add at the end the following sub-section:

"Your Committee find that these Institutions are only open to indigent children, and that the children of parents who are not quite destitute are entirely shut out from them. As there is a very large class of white people in this Colony who are just on the border line of Poor Whites, and whose children can only be saved from actually becoming Poor Whites by Education, and especially industrial education, your Committee very strongly recommend that provision should be made for the establishment of industrial institutions for such children, making each child pay according to the means of its parents. Your Committee feel sure that this will be an effectual way of preventing hundreds of people from becoming Poor Whites."

Paragraph, as amended, put and agreed to

Paragraphs Six, Seven, and Eight put and agreed to.

On Paragraph Nine,

Resolved: In line 15 after "the" to omit "Colony" and substitute "country."

Paragraph, as amended, put and agreed to.

On Paragraph Ten,

Resolved to add at the end:

"Industrious settlers, who have improved their condition by their stay at the Labour Colony and have had their children educated should, moreover, be encouraged to leave the settlement, thereby making room for other Poor Whites. One way of doing this would be to offer them unoccupied Crown Land, of which they could on easy terms become absolute owners."

On Paragraph Eleven,

Dr Smartt moved: In sub-section (b), lines 2 to 6, to omit from "they" down to "purpose" and substitute:

"Your Committee would recommend to the consideration of Parliament the advisability of considering whether, by granting further land to the Labour Colony at Kakamas, the Colony could not be made a still further success."

Upon which the Committee divided:

Ayes—3.

Noes—4.

The Commissioner of
Public Works.
Mr. Cartwright.
Mr. Cloete.

Mr. Kuhn.
Mr. Sauer.
Mr. Malan.
Mr. Abrahamson.

The Amendment accordingly negatived.

Resolved: In sub-section (b), line 6, after "Island" to insert "if the Island be Government land."

Paragraph, as amended, put and agreed to.

On Paragraph Twelve.

Resolved: To add at the end of sub-section (a):

"No person shall, however, be ejected from enjoyment of the full rights and privileges appertaining to the inhabitants of any Labour Colony merely by reason of difference in religious faith from the tenets of the Religious Organisation inaugurating such Colony";

and that the following be new sub-sections to follow sub-section (d):

- (e) The constitution of a Central Board consisting of nominees of the Government and nominees of Religious Bodies recognised as actively undertaking and maintaining Labour Colonies as contemplated in this Report.

Such Board to advise the Government upon proposals for grants of land, financial grants, loans, or other assistance to any Labour Colony, as well as upon any other matters which the Government may refer to them.

- (f) The constitution for each Labour Colony of a Local Board of Management, upon which the Government shall have a representative.

- (g) In the case of any free grants of land or its equivalent made by the Government for the establishment of a Labour Colony, such land or its equivalent shall be vested in the Trustees representing the said Labour Colony, of which the Trustees the Surveyor-General shall be one.

Paragraph, as amended, put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the following be new Paragraphs to follow Paragraph Twelve:

- (13) In certain parts of the Colony, such as Knysna, Crown land exists suitable for agricultural purposes and available for the settlement of persons of the Poor White class. Your Committee would recommend the utilisation of such land as a further means towards the solution of the question under consideration, and would suggest that special terms in regard to the occupation of the land should be made in view of the special circumstances of the case, and that the aid of some recognised religious body or local committee should be obtained in the management of any such settlement that may be established.

- (14) Your Committee are of opinion that, *mutatis mutandis*, the principles indicated in this Report should be applied to Industrial Institutions such as have been mentioned.

Resolved: That the Chairman report accordingly.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON POOR WHITE QUESTION.

Monday, 18th June, 1906.

PRESENT :

Mr. MALAN (Chairman).

Mr. Abrahamson.	The Commissioner of
Mr. Sauer.	Public Works.
Mr. Orpen.	Mr. Cloete.
	Mr. Cartwright.

The Honourable J. A. C. Graaff, M.L.C., examined.

1. *Chairman.*] You are a member of the Legislative Council?—Yes.

The Hon.
J.A.C. Graaff,
M.L.C.

2. I believe that you have been interesting yourself in this poor white question for some time, and that you issued a circular some time ago?—Yes.

June 18, 1906.

3. Could you give the Committee the result of the information obtained in that way?—Last February, I addressed a circular to all the Dutch Clergy in the Cape Colony, at the same time forwarding a form which I requested them to fill in and return to me. The circular and form I put in (Documents put in). The circular asked that the accompanying form should be filled in giving particulars of all poor whites in the towns but excluding those on the land, better known as the "bywoner" class. When I found that the replies came in rather unsatisfactorily, I issued a second circular last April of which I also put in a copy (Circular put in). The idea was to get hold of the particulars of the poor whites in the towns and villages who were desirous of going on the land if there was an opportunity for them to do so. Up to the present the replies received show that

The Hon.
J.A.C. Graaff,
M.L.C.

—
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there are 577 such families, or 2,914 souls. I have here a return showing particulars in regard to these 577 families which I also put in. (Return put in). There are still 36 centres from where no replies have come in. I put in a return showing these centres. (Return put in).

4. I see you have got replies from 43 centres, and you say 36 are still outstanding?—Yes.

5. All these people about whom you have gathered these particulars would like to go back to the land?—Yes, so it appears from the returns.

6. I understand that you formed a member of a deputation that waited upon the Government some time ago in regard to this question.—Yes.

7. What was decided at that interview?—The deputation waited upon the Government towards the end of last year, and it was decided that I should go on with my inquiry with a view to ascertaining how many of this class were in the towns and desirous of getting back on to the land, so that the information could be laid before Parliament when a Select Committee would be asked for in order to go into the whole matter. The Government promised the deputation to assist in this matter as far as possible.

8. Do you know whether any information has been collected by the Government as regards the availability of Crown lands for labour colony settlements?—Dr. Smartt, who was acting Prime Minister at the time, said that he was having a map prepared showing the available Crown lands in the Colony.

9. Have you seen that map yet?—No.

10. Is there anything else that you would like to communicate to the Committee?—I have a book here with me, which contains all the particulars in detail of the summary I have put in.

11. Will you kindly have a copy made of those particulars for the information of the Committee?—Yes.

12. *Mr. Abrahamson.*] You said that you have not included people of the “bywoner” class

in the information collected by you, but don't you think that many people of the "bywoner" class are in such indigent circumstances that they should also be included in any scheme which may be set up for dealing with the poor white question? —Yes; but I think the poor whites in the towns and villages who are desirous of getting on to the land should first be assisted.

The Hon.
J.A.C. Graaff.
M.L.C.
—
June 18, 1906.

13. The poor whites in the towns and villages are more easily got at?—Yes.

14. *Mr. Sauer.*] From your return it appears that you have not ascertained whether any of the children of those people were at school or not?—No; I have not made any inquiry as to the number of children at school.

15. No inquiry was made either as to whether some of these people would be willing or able to take to other occupations than going on to the land?—No. I have no particulars of that.

16. You have no means of forming an estimate of the ages of the children?—No, I have only the ages of the parents, but the return discloses the number of children who are able to work, and that would give some idea if one placed the working age at about 14 years.

17. *Mr. Cloete.*] You say you have received replies from 43 places, and that no replies have been received from 36 places?—Yes.

18. Now, we would like to arrive at the approximate number of persons to be dealt with. Taking the class of town and village we have, would you say that the 43 centres from which replies have come would be a fair average?—I should say so. Some places like Knysna, from which no return has come, is very thickly populated, while other places like Malmesbury have no poor whites.

19. *Mr. Abrahamson.*] Have you formed any idea of the number of people that would have to be dealt with? Would there be 10,000 including bywoners?—Considering the number we have got from the places which have replied I would not be surprised if all the poor whites came up to that number.

The Reverend Bernard Petrus Jacobus Marchand,
B.A.. examined.

Rev. B. P. J.
Marchand.
B.A.

June 18, 1906.

20. *Chairman.*] You are a Minister of the Dutch Reformed Church?—Yes.

21. And a member of the Synodical Committee of that Church for labour colonies?—Yes, I am the Chairman of that Committee.

22. When was that Committee formed?—In 1894.

23. Can you just give us an idea shortly how that Committee is constituted?—There are eleven members, I think, of whom six are ministers and five elders of the Church, who are practical farmers.

24. Have you such a basis for selecting the members of this commission so as to represent the whole of the Cape Colony, or are they taken only from one part?—The first Committee was so constituted as to represent the whole Colony, but as the work has been confined to a special part of the Colony, I have made use of men in the neighbourhood, and there are now more men on the Committee who live towards the north-west.

25. After your Committee was formed in 1894, what was your first step?—I sent notices to the different members of the Committee who were living in different parts of the Colony and asked them to report on any suitable places which they considered would meet our purposes for settlements.

26. Did you get any reports on that?—Yes, a good many.

27. Can you give the Committee an idea as to some of the places that were mentioned in those reports?—As negotiations are pending, I will mention the districts from where reports have come. They are Mossel Bay, Wodehouse and the neighbourhood of Jausenville. I also approached the Secretary for Agriculture about land in the north-west.

28. Your first step as a Committee was to get information about these different centres?—Yes.

29. I understand that you visited Europe during that time?—Yes, in 1895.

Rev. B. P. J.
Marchand,
B.A.

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30. The main object of that visit was in connection with these labour colonies?—The object was a double one. I was then official visitor of the Porter Reformatory at Tokai, and I had a sort of unofficial help from the Government here. I got an introduction to the Home Office, and in that way also had an introduction to the Home Office of the German Government, so that I had entrance not only to private institutions that dealt with this question, but also to all the prisons; and in connection with this subject there was a report laid before Parliament dealing with the question of young criminals. I took in the whole question dealing with the lapsed.

31. And you then had an opportunity of studying more closely those different institutions?—Yes; how they were dealt with both from a public point of view and from the christian socialists' point of view.

32. Did you see anything of the working of the Institute of Pastor von Bodelschwingh?—Yes.

33. Can you give us any idea of his work?—He began his work as the head of an institution for epileptics, and he bought up land belonging to certain socialists for the purposes of his institution. Those men finding that their land had been utilised for this purpose, burned down some of the buildings of Pastor von Bodelschwingh, and he then put to himself the question whether as a good christian he had done the correct thing, and in that way he launched the scheme of putting the people on to the land, and there is now in the neighbourhood of Bielefeld a place called Bethel, where they have got about 3,000 epileptics, and the place has developed large industries. Tiles are made there and bromide is manufactured on a very large scale. It is really a labour colony, all the work being done by these epileptics. Besides Bielefeld is a manufacturing

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centre. They have a scheme whereby the poor whites who work in the factories are housed.

34. *Mr. Sauer.*] What do you mean by poor whites?—Well, these are really not poor whites in our sense of the term; it is the housing of the workmen—what is called the *arbeiterheim*. By this scheme the men can become owners of their homes. The constitution of labour colonies may differ. They have one kind of labour colony which is really a social farm where drunks, single men, are kept for a time; they have another kind of labour colony for men with families where they are provided with temporary residence. Besides these two classes they have a third kind, which is the only practical kind and which is the one adopted here by us; under this scheme we get the men on to the land and keep them there as tenants upon payment of what might be termed “a quitrent.”

35. *Chairman.*] The experience you have had in the district of Knysna, supplemented by your experience on your inspection tour in Europe brought your attention on this labour colony movement?—Yes.

36. And when you returned from Europe towards the end of 1895 you took this matter up in a more concrete and definite form?—Yes.

37. Well, what steps did you take?—Most of the reports that we got were rather unsatisfactory as to the places we inquired about: for instance the place in the neighbourhood of Indwe was reported as unsuitable.

38. *Mr. Cloete.*] Did you only consider the question of the land then or did you also go into the question of the number of poor whites?—Yes.

39. *Chairman.*] You also had an interview with the Government?—Yes.

40. And the Government offered you the sites of Kakamas and Soetap along the Orange River?—No; they gave me a list of farms from Prieska westwards along the Orange River, including those known as the Buchuberg farms. Having

got this list from the Government, we wrote to the Reverend Mr. Schröder, who was at that time a missionary at Upington. The Government simply gave me the list of farms without committing themselves in any way. At our request Mr. Schröder visited those places, and it was on his recommendation that we applied for Kakamas and Soetap.

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41. Then you got these farms through the Waste Lands Committee's recommendation, which passed through Parliament?—Yes.

42. And when did you start your work there?—In 1897.

43. Give us the central idea or real object of establishing a labour colony?—From my own experience at the Knysna. I found that the only effective way of dealing with this question was to get the people educated, and at Knysna that was, comparatively speaking, an easy matter, because the wood-cutters there live close to one another near the forest, and therefore the children could easily be got together to a school. The central idea of the labour colony is to bring the people together and to educate their children. It is incidental that we must provide for the families meanwhile.

44. *Mr. Sauer.*] Where do you mean?—At the labour colonies; the central idea is the education of the people.

45. At Knysna you have not got the families on your hands?—No.

46. *Chairman.*] After getting the farms this furrow was taken out at the Orange River at which a large number of people worked with a sort of understanding that they would get an erf with water rights?—Yes.

47. What are the main conditions of this occupation?—The applicant must be a married man with a family; he must have a certificate, signed by the Magistrate and the minister who applies on his behalf; and he must further have a certificate of good conduct. Our object is in the first place to

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reach the deserving man; reforming work may have to follow. For this occupation the men pay an annual rental. It is important to note that we do not want to give these people out-and-out title to their lots, because our experience for the last five or six years has been that if these people had had out-and-out title to their land many of them would have been cleared out.

48. What do you mean by that?—I mean that one of the greatest temptations of the ordinary poor white of this country, and everywhere else, is that he, being a thriftless person, will buy so long as a shop will sell.

49. So that you are of opinion that this class of person should not get title to the land so occupied by them?—No. In our first report to the Synod, we reviewed different classes of labour colonies and one of these classes provided for the eventual ownership of the land by these people. At Kakamas, however, that would not be the case, but we may start colonies where the conditions could enable a man to become owner of his land.

50. Have your Committee any moral influence or hold upon the settlers?—Yes; the moral influence is in the regulations, they can be warned and then fined, and I am glad to say that they generally pay their fines very quickly; then our final penalty is removal from the colony.

51. So that you have a moral and religious hold on these people and they stand under supervision?—Yes.

52. Have you got any condition as to education there?—Yes, that has been compulsory from the beginning.

53. *The Commissioner of Public Works.*] The education of the children?—Yes.

54. *Chairman.*] And you have been connected with Kakamas from the very beginning?—Yes.

55. Now, what is your experience and your opinion as regards the result of that undertaking?—That I would employ the same sort of thing all over the country wherever there is an opportunity.

I do not say exactly on the same lines, but certainly where land is acquired for the purpose to put the people on to it, in some cases holding out the hope that they can become owners through a system of payment and in other cases to adopt the system in force at Kakamas, where they remain tenants. I may point out, however, that at Kakamas they are really tenants in perpetuity, because the regulations provide that a man shall not be disturbed in his occupation unless he refuses or fails to pay his rent, and they generally remain in possession as if they were out and out proprietor. Besides, should the Committee decide to clear a man out of his place he can appeal to the Church Synod. When a man is cleared out he is entitled to compensation up to an amount not exceeding £200.

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56. You have a superintendent there who is at the head of the colony?—Yes.

57. And would you say that the labour colony movement is an effective means of dealing with this poor white question?—Yes.

58. Are there any other methods which you could suggest?—Industrial schools for the town poor white. The Reverend Moorrees of the Paarl and myself, started one here in Cape Town as an experiment, the boys being put out with local tradesmen. And the experiment was tried at Uitenhage, where the boys are taught in the Home itself. We, however, abandoned ours in Cape Town, because we found that the system would not work, as the moral influence on the boys while being placed with local tradesmen was undesirable. We boarded the boys, gave them their education in the Home and a little industrial instruction. We had boys at the *Cape Times*, for instance, and they required these boys to work till one or two o'clock in the morning, and that militated against effectual supervision. The only industrial school that I would recommend is the type they have at Uitenhage, but I may add that it is a much more expensive system than the one we tried.

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59. Do you know anything of the industrial school they have got in connection with the wagon-making industry at the Paarl?—No; but in such a case you might have perhaps from 20 to 40 boys in a particular factory if you had a sympathetic owner who would agree to the rules of the Home.

60. Have you got any experience of people of the poor white class going into the public service, say, into the railway service or into the police branch?—Yes; some years ago, Sir John Graham spoke to me about some poor people from the districts of George and Knysna; he was advised he could get some men of that class from there for policemen out at Tokai. I thought it an excellent idea; I do not know what the man at present on the spot would report, but I was told a large number of men came from there and they were a complete success.

61. *Mr. Sauer.*] What do you mean by a family man, a married couple or must there be children?—They have to apply and of course we would always give the man with a family of five or six the preference to a man with only one or two.

62. But must there be children to constitute a family or would a married couple in indigent circumstances be admitted?—The regulations say “every white person with a family.”

63. *Chairman.*] You give preference to those who have large families?—Yes.

64. *Mr. Orpen.*] The point is this: would a married couple be admitted without children?—Yes, on certain conditions; take the furrow on the northern side of the River: if we wanted more workmen for this furrow, and there is room, we would take them.

65. *Mr. Sauer.*] You have only got one colony under your supervision at present?—Yes, that is to say, half of one.

66. What do you mean by that?—Because we have only got a colony on the Southern side of the Orange River.

67. But the division of the River does not divide it into two colonies, and you have only one institution at present?—Yes.

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68. How many people have you there at present?—There are 130 families.

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69. European families?—Yes.

70. What proportion of children have you there?—According to the last Census we had over a thousand people.

71. And the majority would be children?—Yes.

72. What part of the Colony do they come from, mainly from that neighbourhood?—I should say about two-thirds come from the neighbourhood.

73. What were they doing, when you took them, were they merely destitute?—Yes; some of them were “bywoners” with sheep farmers, some bankrupts and some “bywoners” with erfholders at Upington and Keimoes.

74. They were in very poor and backward circumstances?—Yes.

75. And speaking generally, they were not able to make provision for their families?—No.

76. They were mostly from the land and you did not take any from the towns?—Unless you can call Keimoes and Upington towns, but those places are really nothing more than little farms.

77. If you increased the land suitable for occupation and cultivation, you will have no difficulty in getting more people?—No; we have an enormous number of applications now.

78. How long have your schools been established?—Our school building is only about two years old, but before that the school was carried on in a sort of hut.

79. For how long?—It was very elementary before the war, and real business was only started after the war.

80. And have you a marked improvement in the children?—Oh, yes.

81. And are there some bright fellows among them?—Oh, yes; one youngster there is in the sixth or seventh standard, and with my last visit there was a full class in the fifth standard.

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82. Have any of the children been long enough to have received sufficient education in order to go out and battle for themselves?—Some of them have, but it so happens that the largest class is composed chiefly of girls, because the young fellows of 18 and 19 years of age are out working. We do not want these girls to leave too soon, as we want a large number of teachers for the north-west, and we are training them at Kakamas for the purpose.

83. Boys of 16 and 17, with some education, what becomes of them?—Our object is that they must clear out with an industrial training, if possible; that is part of our scheme.

84. Do you give industrial training there?—Not yet; we would have started long ago, but the transport for wood is so high and the wood along the Orange River is not suitable as it is too hard.

85. You contemplate giving more industrial instruction?—Yes.

86. But the boys there of course have learnt something about irrigation and cultivation of land?—Oh, yes; they get that in a very practical way, being at it day after day.

87. And that enables them, at any rate, to earn a living?—Yes. Some of the parents when they first came really knew nothing about cultivating the land; but the children now grow up as small farmers.

88. Have you ever considered the advisability of getting in the towns, say, boys who have had some education indentured to wagon-makers, artisans, carpenters, blacksmiths and the like?—Yes; in the Paarl district, *e.g.* you have a number of our boys who are with wagon-makers and blacksmiths.

89. But then they are not under control?—That would be part of our scheme. We want to have the boys indentured, and my idea was to start a boot factory, for instance. I think that would answer well up in those parts, because the skins have now to be transported for about 300 miles, then sent across the sea, and come back again in

the shape of boots. We have got the water power and can produce electrical power, which can be used for the factory, and in that way we can at once have an industrial school.

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90. So that really all you want is some money to enable you to extend the industrial part of your scheme?—Yes; and I am also in correspondence with certain people with a view to getting knitting machines for the girls.

91. And would you say that, not only on the children but also on the parents, this discipline and continuous labour have assisted very much to their self-respect?—Very much; indeed the school is re-acting very largely on the parents.

92. And I understand that the moral influence of the minister in charge is very great, and that he is obeyed and much respected?—Yes, his influence is very great indeed.

93. Would you say, as a whole, that so far the enterprise is a success?—Yes; I consider it a success from two points of view: these people have had food for the last seven or eight years which they have earned, and which before that time they had not. During the drought, three years ago, the Government spent large sums of money in the north-west, at such places as Victoria West and Carnarvon, and during that time the people at the labour colony were no burden to the Government, which they undoubtedly would have been had they not been at this colony.

94. You don't run the institution on eleemosynary lines; they must work?—They get the land, and if they don't work they won't have a living.

95. A man there does not live on doles, he must give a substantial return for what he gets?—Oh yes.

96. Do you get some State-aid now towards the cost of maintenance and supervision of the establishment?—Not a cent. What we got from the State were the two farms Kakamas and Soetap which were granted to us; and I want to say very distinctly that when the farms were granted to us

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they were not worth £5 a year, because as grazing they were worthless. The Government reserved 300 morgen for police purposes, and after we had taken out the water, the Government wanted some of our water for the police erven, so we got the farm called "Neus" from the Government in exchange for this water. We also got on loan £2,500, which has to be repaid. With the great distress in the north-west, Sir Gordon Sprigg intimated to me that there was a report from the Magistrate at Kenhardt that a number of the poor people had applied at Kakamas for food. I was asked what we were going to do. I said that by our rules we would have to clear these people off Kakamas, but if the Government would give us another £1,000 on loan, we would supply those people with work, so that at present we have £3,500 as a loan under the Loan Act, and we pay interest.

97. You get no State-aid towards carrying on the business of this colony at Kakamas?—None whatever, except, of course, what any other town gets in the way of grants towards teachers, but we get no State-aid towards the cost of administration of the colony.

98. You were speaking of police. You have over a thousand Europeans there; how do you manage the municipal life of the place?—We have a local committee chosen by us and the people there; they suggest some names and we select two, the other two being appointed by them. These men, in conjunction with the Superintendent, form the local committee and they see that the regulations are carried out.

99. As regards crime, is there much of it?—No.

100. And order is very easily kept?—Yes, very easily.

101. And the management, is it expensive, or inexpensive?—I may say very inexpensive; the young minister who is in charge gets only £250 or £300 a year and he is the Superintendent.

102. Under your rules I see that for certain things you may expel?—Yes.

103. Have any people who have come there ever been sent away?—No, we have not yet sent any away, but I won't say that we will not send away one or two soon to serve as an example to the rest.

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104. As a general rule, do these people readily fall in with the arrangements?—Oh yes, they now realise the advantage. I believe that if you were to ask 90 per cent. whether they would become owners of their plots, they would say "no"; they realise that their safety lies in the regulations.

105. But although they don't want to become owners, that does not mean that they want to terminate their connection with the settlement?—No.

106. They have sufficient security under the arrangements?—Yes.

107. You said that Sir John Graham has spoken to you about enrolling men of the poor white class for the police—and that is a matter that I have spoken about for years, especially the mounted police force—do you think that young fellows would readily take to employment in the mounted police?—Yes; I know one man for instance, an Englishman, from the Eastern Province, who is one of the finest men in the force.

108. That is a kind of occupation some of these men, who would otherwise have no employment, would take to?—Yes, when I first went to Kakamas the two mounted police there were two young Dutchmen.

109. You think that in a large measure this question of poor whites can be settled by the principle of labour colonies?—Yes, by having different farms.

110. You recognise that if you got the people there it would be a sort of preparation, also, not only for enabling them to gain a livelihood, but for employment other than going on to the land?—With my last visit I impressed upon them again that though there was room for the 130 families, there would not be room for them all as they increased and that therefore they must look to their

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education to enable them to go out and do something else.

111. Some of the girls might even go out for domestic service?—Yes.

112. And the boys cannot all look forward to getting land?—No.

113. And you think by this process you can train them to fill other posts?—Yes.

114. Such as artisans and employment on the railways and in Government service?—Yes.

115. Do you think that in some of our Departments like the railways and the police, and others, there would be an opening for employing people, who have received such education and training as you are giving, to any large extent in this colony?—Yes, I think you can make use in those directions of a large number of them.

116. Would you say that you have specially in view that the only settlement of the poor white question is not merely placing people on the land but that this other consideration is a necessary part of the scheme and perhaps a very important part of it?—Yes; of course from a general point of view, it is very important.

117. The funds in connection with the establishment of this colony have come from the Dutch Reformed Church in the main?—No, the main portion has been borrowed. We asked for collections and contributions but we got no more than about £2,500 and the present debt is £20,000.

118. *Chairman.*] But the Church is responsible for the money?—Yes.

119. *Mr. Sauer.*] If you failed to pay your way, the Dutch Reformed Church would have to make it up?—Yes.

120. *Mr. Cloete.*] You say you started your Committee in 1894?—Yes.

121. Why did you start this labour colony in 1894, were there many poor whites then?—I raised this question 20 years ago and thought that if we began in time we might prevent such a problem arising.

122. Have they increased since then in your opinion?—Immediately after the war, I think, we must have had three or four times the number.

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123. Than at the present moment?—I should say that the number has been reduced as far as the Cape Colony is concerned, but perhaps we cannot say the Cape Colony only, because in visiting the Transvaal lately, I found round about places like Pretoria, Fordsburg and Johannesburg, that the numbers have trebled, and people there say that many of those poor whites are our people and those are in a wretched condition.

124. You say the central idea of the labour colonies is to bring the people together and to educate the children?—Yes.

125. Is there no danger of over-centralisation in this matter; if you bring all these people together and there is no outlet for them, what will the result eventually be?—The same as with Cape Town—you may have an “unemployed” problem to deal with.

126. You say that only families settle there, and of course these families will increase?—Yes.

127. Now with the increase of these people, what will be the result eventually; would it not be to pauperise?—No, because I hold that every educated man is an asset and not a liability.

128. Now, with reference to this local Committee, does it decide all questions, not only municipal matters but also moral matters?—Yes; the central Committee here acts as a sort of court of appeal, and we have had one or two little disputes sent down for our decision.

129. Then there is a sort of court of appeal in case of property dispute, or something of that kind?—Yes.

130. With reference to the boys, there is an idea of getting them away from the labour colonies to take other occupations?—Yes; in fact some of them go out now.

131. Are there many of these boys going out already?—We have not got to that stage yet, that a large number go out.

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132. *Mr. Sauer.*] Have you advanced to the civilised state of a prison there?—No; at Kakamas. at the police station, I suppose, there is a lock-up.

133. *Chairman.*] Have they no Magistrate?—No; one was sent there, but as there was nothing for him to do, he was recalled by the Government.

134. The police are not stationed there for the purpose of the labour colony; they are the border police and have their station there because it is a centre of supply?—Yes.

135. *Mr. Orpen.*] Are there any restrictions on trade at the labour colony at Kakamas?—Yes, we retain the trade in our own hands.

136. Supposing some of the people there contracted debts with an outsider, has the latter any hold on their crops?—According to law there can be no hold until the crops are harvested, and, of course, we see that we are paid first.

137. Are natives or coloured people allowed in the colony?—No; some of the men who were a little bit advanced were allowed to let coloured labourers settle on certain portions outside.

138. Are they permanently settled there as labourers?—No; they belong to the Koranna tribe, and are always moving about.

139. *Mr. Cartwright.*] We have every reason to believe that there are large numbers of poor whites all over the Colony, both in the Eastern and Western Provinces?—Yes.

140. Now, to what circumstance, or set of circumstances, do you attribute the coming into being of these poor people; what is at the bottom or at the root of the whole thing?—Well, the one answer is, the struggle for existence; you have the same question all over the world. But as regards our people, formerly, when a man got into such a condition that he had no land on which to live, he would simply trek a little further, and was encouraged to do so, as the Government wished the country opened up. Formerly he could clear away from civilization, which now he cannot do. Then there is the question of the

larger farms, the owners of which, each, may have two or three families of the "bywoner" class upon their farms. The farmer gives them a lot of assistance, but after 20 years or so, the two or three families may have become 20 families, and then there is no room for them. I drew attention to this aspect of the question 20 years ago, and just the other day I was reading a book in which the same trouble is referred to in the west of the United States; the enormous cattle ranches there had gradually been reduced, with the result that the people were obliged to take to agriculture.

141. *Mr. Sauer.*] Don't you think that want of education has a great deal to do with it?—Yes, it has a great deal to do with it, but if the same class of people could get farms, say, if the Kalahari were opened up, they would not be a problem as poor whites to the country; they would be able to make a living.

142. But as we are now constituted it is want of education?—Yes; unless they are educated now they cannot compete in the struggle for existence.

143. *Mr. Cartwright.*] Could you say that these people are not responsible for being in that position?—In the great majority of cases their condition is due to the pressure of circumstances more than to any fault of their own.

144. I would like to know whether in your opinion there is not work on the farms for these people if they were willing to go and work as labourers. Is it not a fact that they will not go and work for the farmer in competition with the ordinary coloured labourer?—To this question a different answer would come from different districts with which one deals. The people in the north-west cannot work for the farmers. A man who has a sheep farm can take perhaps two families as "bywoners," but he cannot take twenty. These people have grown up on the sheep runs and I don't know that the Western Province wine farmer would care to have them as labourers on his farm. At Kakamas our endeavour

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is to turn these people who have grown up on sheep farms into agricultural farmers. I may say that we have built that furrow entirely with the labour of poor whites, not a single coloured man being employed, that is to say, the southern furrow at which these men worked for nine months at three shillings per day, and to-day they can only make a living. The question is put, what are you going to do with these people when they have become rich? It is well, therefore, to state that these people have to work hard to keep their families going, and Kakamas is by no means the paradise that some seem to imagine that it is.

145. Is the whole of the produce raised at Kakamas consumed there, or does some of it go to the market?—How would they pay their rent if they consumed it all themselves? We have a market west of the railway line to De Aar, as there is comparatively very little produce grown. In the Kenhardt district, no wheat is grown and north of Kakamas towards the Kalahari there are numbers of farmers who cannot grow wheat or potatoes, as they have barely enough water for their stock, and these people have hitherto had to buy their wheat from Cape Town. It is surprising to know the quantity of wheat sent up there in the past *via* Carnarvon or De Aar.

146. And this want is now to some extent being supplied from Kakamas?—Yes.

147. And that can be extended very much?—Oh yes; there is the German Territory which will prove a good market in spite of what some people say about it to the contrary.

148. Are there possibilities to extend the irrigation further than it is now?—Yes; there is now a new scheme for a furrow about 30 miles long and when that is complete we hope to have 400 instead of 130 families.

149. You say you have compulsory education there?—Yes.

150. I take it that your arrangements to carry out the full requirements are quite inadequate;

you have no buildings?—We have up to what the demand has been, but that of course is growing. Our chief school building there would do credit even to Wynberg.

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151. *The Commissioner of Public Works.*] Some of the people who went up there had wagons or oxen and donkeys?—Yes; that was when we first began. Mr. Schröder said that if we insisted on their having absolutely nothing, it would be a very heavy burden on us. If therefore a man who was wandering from farm to farm possessing, say, 50 or 100 sheep, we took him as he was really a poor white.

152. What provision have you for meeting the requirements of the settlers who have nothing whereby they are able to buy animals to do their agricultural work, and the necessary implements as well?—Well, at the start we had to make heavy advances, and even last year I helped them with piping.

153. What rate of interest do you charge them for these advances, and what are the arrangements whereby the tenants repay these advances?—Take those pipes we charged them 10 or 12 per cent. on the advance, which cost us 6 per cent., then we have a shop and give them credit.

154. As yet you have no definite system upon which advances are made upon businesslike lines, and in order to be able to make advances of that sort you would require more funds?—Yes: it would help us immensely if we had, say, £2,000 which we can call capital for advances.

155. Has it generally been your experience that the people there have answered as agriculturists?—Yes; and during my last visit I was very glad to hear the request from a number of them whether there could not be somebody to help them and to show them how to work.

156. You stated in your evidence that the parents of a number of families who came there had no experience of cultivating the land?—No; but of course Mr. Schröder knows farming on the

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Orange River very well, and he instructed them and assisted them.

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157. Even now the irrigation is of a very rough description?—It has considerably improved. We have to keep a very sharp look out on the irrigation of the land; the soil is very fertile and we run the risk of brack.

158. Do you think that the people would themselves be anxious if you had a skilled irrigator on the settlement to learn irrigation from him in the most scientific manner?—I am quite sure that he would be appreciated, and at present I am in correspondence with a young man with a view to getting him to go there.

159. Young fellows trained practically on the soil in a manner of that sort would be likely to get many openings as the country developed?—Yes.

160. You stated that you were opposed to anything but the tenant system?—No; I am opposed to anything but the tenant system at Kakamas.

161. Only at Kakamas?—Yes.

162. Your fear is that it would not be a good thing for the men to be able to alienate their property or to raise money upon it. If those difficulties could be met, would you still have the same objections to a man getting full title after a series of years and after a man has paid all charges?—Yes, I would always be in favour of the proviso prohibiting him to alienate the land as it would be most undesirable, and you are obliged to protect and safeguard the man himself, and the only way to do that is to withhold title from him.

163. What number of stock do you allow an erfholder to run?—I think 25 to 30 sheep and perhaps ten head of cattle.

164. Would you have any objection to increase that number if you had sufficient grazing land?—I would very much like to see the number increased because the limited number at present is just one of the difficulties of the men as now they have to exchange a good deal of their crops for meat.

165. How big are the erven?—The average is six morgen.

166. These labour colonies you are convinced would not be a success except when run under proper supervision?—Without proper supervision I think they would be worse than useless.

167. Do you think the proper bodies to supervise such colonies are the religious bodies who take an interest in the people and put a certain amount of money into their development themselves?—Yes ; and I think it is very necessary that the religious bodies should put a certain amount of their own money into the development of these colonies as that would be some public guarantee. If, however, there is to be no supervision the settlement would be a failure.

168. So far as your own church is concerned, if Parliament were to assist you with an easier system of loans, or with grants such as Mr. Sauer referred to. would you have any objection to a representative of the State being upon your board?—Certainly not, but that is of course only my personal opinion.

169. A large number of the people at Kakamas were originally farmers who had practically lost everything they possessed through the droughts?—Yes, one man used to be a contractor.

170. With regard to the question put to you by Mr. Cartwright as to whether these people could not find work upon the farms as labourers, is it not your experience that in the dry parts such as the North-western districts of the Colony it is difficult for a man to find work other than that of a shepherd?—Yes. that is so.

171. And as the wages for such service is regulated by the wages paid to the coloured people, it is useless for a white man to take such work, as he cannot maintain a family upon it?—Yes.

172. Have you found that any of the men who have come to Kakamas and had a start, have been able to re-establish themselves and start farming on their own account again?—Not yet, but I think

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that some of them with sufficient thrift will get that length.

173. Don't you think it would be possible at the settlement for a man who had sunk very low through force of circumstances to be given an opportunity to collect sufficient goods to start for himself?—Oh, yes; but it depends entirely upon the man. One man will make a good deal out of a small place, and we have a case at Kakamas where a man who came from the Oudtshoorn district who knew how to farm land, who, for a man in his station of life, is making money.

174. Have you any banking system to encourage them to invest their funds?—No, but we have now got a post office there, and the men will be able to use the Post Office Savings Bank.

175. *Mr. Sauer.*] Would it not be better if in the event of the Government advancing money there were an inspection and report by a Government officer, instead of Government having a representative on the management?—In one way an inspection would give the Government more control as the representative would be outvoted on the board.

176. *Mr. Cartwright.*] Having regard to the very large amount of money spent on this settlement, could you tell us whether the interest on that amount of capital has been fairly met?—It is being met now, but then I must tell you that we have a mill there and at this mill the wheat is ground not only for the settlement but also for the people round about. That gives us an income and the profit derived from that source goes towards the payment for the management and interest on loans.

177. Your shops up there are not run on the co-operative system?—No; but that is our plan; at present whatever profit comes out of it goes into the fund to meet the interest and the expenses connected with the development of the settlement. Under our Dutch Reformed Church Law we cannot use any surplus moneys from labour colonies for any other purpose but labour colonies.

178. Still if you made a profit in Kakamas you could use it at Jansenville?—For the same purpose.

179. *Chairman.*] Will you put in the conditions of occupation at the settlement?—Yes. (Conditions put in).

180. On the south side of the Orange River, on the west side of the Hartebeest River, there is a farm known as the Hartebeest River Mond, is there a chance of extending your labour colony in that direction?—Yes.

182. Is that Government land too?—Yes; we have applied to purchase the farm from the Government. Our furrow now extends from the Orange River to the Hartebeest River.

182. And the water could easily be taken by syphon to the farm?—Yes.

183. How many families could you locate there?—From 40 to 50.

184. How many morgen of that farm would be irrigable land?—About 240 morgen.

185. You said, in reply to the Commissioner for Public Works, that when a labour colony is started the church interested should be prepared to put in a certain amount of its own money. Have you any idea as to what that amount should be?—From about one-fourth to one-third. I would suggest one-third, although it would be better for me if the Government gave five-sixths; but I think, from a public point of view, it is better that the religious body concerned should show its good faith by putting in one-third of the money advanced by the Government, so that in a loan the Government could grant the other two-thirds on the sinking fund principle.

186. In what way, if any, should the Government assist in regard to these labour colonies?—I think it might be an inducement to denominations or organisations like the Salvation Army if they got a capitation grant for every family rescued and taken out of the hands of the State. That money could be used towards the education of the children and generally for the benefit of the settlement.

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187. Could the Government also assist in the way of supplying men with special knowledge for these colonies, say, such as the appointment of an inspector in the training school?—The Government can assist by giving a boarding grant to, say, a certain number of boys and girls sent down here to learn trades on the same conditions as the grants are given to the Home at Uitenhage.

Wednesday, 20th June, 1906.

PRESENT :

Mr. MALAN (Chairman).

Mr. Orpen.

Mr. H. S. van Zyl.

Mr. Cloete.

Mr. Abrahamson.

Mr. Sauer.

Mr. Cartwright.

The Commissioner
of Public Works.

Miss Susannah Möller, examined.

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S. Möller.
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188. *Chairman.*] What position do you hold, Miss Möller?—I am matron in charge of the Little Girls' Indigent Home at Graaff-Reinet, which was established under Act No. 24 of 1895—the Destitute Children's Relief Act.

189. How long has that institution been founded?—Since 1899; we started on 1st July, 1899.

190. How many girls have you got in that institute?—We have 18 on the books now. At the end of the month one of the little girl's time is up, and her uncle is coming for her.

191. What is the object of your institute?—The object of our institute is to train these girls to become mothers' helps. They are taken away from undesirable surroundings, and we train them to become good mothers' helps, so that in after years they can earn a good living.

192. Do you give them a good general education?—Yes, they receive five hours' instruction from a certificated teacher under a grant from the Education Department.

193. What are the conditions of entrance to this institute?—The girls are admitted, we will say, from the early age of 4; they remain with us until they are 16; and after that they are indentured to respectable families, where they remain until they are of age. Naturally, if they like to remain after that they can do so.

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194. What are the conditions as to payment?—We get 30s. a month—£18 a year—for each child.

195. From Government?—Yes.

196. And do the parents of these children pay anything?—No, nothing at all; the parents have no say in the matter at all—it is all the Government. Even in indenturing the children the parents have no say.

197. How is this institute managed; is it a church institute?—The ground on which the building stands belongs to the Dutch Reformed Church. I fancy that at the time the building was erected the Government paid half, and the church paid the other half; but the ground belongs to the Dutch Reformed Church.

198. How do you balance your accounts?—We get our grant quarterly, and, of course, settle our accounts quarterly.

199. My point is, does the grant of £18 a year from the Government cover your expenses?—Barely; hardly.

200. If you have a deficit how do you manage?—We try to manage to come out on what we get.

201. *Mr. Sauer.*] With the aid of a little subscriptions and so on?—Just lately we have had about 15s. a quarter in subscriptions, which is very little. We have to pay the Dutch Reformed Church £18 a year for house rent, and there is my salary, which is £50 a year. Our President, Mrs. Murray (wife of the Rev. Charles Murray), pays me from our grant. Until just lately, I had been, during all those years, attending in the school itself from half-past 9 in the morning till half-past 1 in the afternoon, and I had to see to all the cooking and everything myself, which was rather too much, so

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our President thought I should have an assistant, which I got, and we pay her 12s. a month, which has also to be taken from our grant. I just want to show you that we are barely coming out within our allowance.

202. *Chairman.*] Of course, it is part of the training given to those girls that they should attend to house work too?—Yes, but if they have to go to school at half-past 8 in the morning and only leave off at half-past 1, there is hardly time for them to do cooking. We suggest having, after the holidays, if we can possibly manage it, the school in the afternoon, so that then there will very likely be no necessity for keeping a cook, and the girls will have to do the cooking themselves. As it is now, having to go to school at half-past 8 in the morning and only leaving off at half-past 1, there is no possible time for them to do the cooking. But they do all kinds of house work, such as washing, ironing, maugling, scrubbing and cleaning floors, cleaning stoves; they do every class of house work.

203. Have you sufficient applications for admission to your institute?—I have 18 girls now, but I could accommodate about 10 more, or perhaps 12. I should like, if I may, to explain the position. The Home, as I have said, is on ground belonging to the Dutch Reformed Church. There is a large piece of ground adjoining the building which is used as a garden. Since 1899, when we started, we never had a garden. The Industrial Home is just on the other side, and we only see these good things in connection with the Industrial Home. This large garden of ours is on ground which the church formerly let at £10 a year to the Tennis Club, but they left, and I made inquiries of the church-wardens and minister whether we could not rent it, and they kindly gave it to me for £12 a year. The rent I have been paying for our garden is not taken from our Government grant, but I have collected subscriptions for that and have deposited the money at the bank. Last year to the end of

May I paid £8, and to the close of this year I have paid Mr. Meiring £12. Next to the Home is the garden, and there is another large piece of ground which I have asked the church if we can have for a school. Our Resident Magistrate (Mr. Hoole), who is the guardian of our children, and who takes a very keen interest in our work, suggested that we might have the schoolroom and classroom built large enough to accommodate about 100 children; and naturally the boarding department would have to be made larger also. I have applied to the churchwardens, and they say we can have the ground, and I have now to get a grant. I have only 18 girls on my books, but, as I have said, I have room for 10 or 12 more, or even still more. But I do not want only 20 or 30. I want at least about 100 waifs and strays from throughout the Colony. My whole life is bound up in the interests of these poor whites. It does not matter whether they are English or Dutch. I only want to assist them, and I would be only too glad if I could have help to do it.

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204. How do you pay your teachers?—At first we did not come under the Education Department, but for the last couple of years the Superintendent-General of Education has been so kind as to give us assistance.

205. You get a grant for your teachers as a poor school?—Yes, from the Education Department.

206. *Mr. Sauer.*] How do the children come to the Home; what brings them; is it through the work of the ministers, or how?—There was an Act passed by Parliament in 1895—the Destitute Children's Relief Act—and under that Act destitute children are admitted to the Home: firstly, those who wander about uncared for and without parents or guardians; secondly, those who live in houses of immorality or whose mother leads an immoral life; thirdly, those who live among thieves and drunkards. There are the three conditions of destitution.

207. Who sees that such children come to you?

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—For instance, should you know of such destitute children, or any other party, you would acquaint the Resident Magistrate of the town.

208. But is there anybody who specially makes it his business to do it?—Should any party know of a case he would tell the Resident Magistrate, who would investigate the matter and see whether the facts were as reported; the Magistrate would then report to the Colonial Secretary, and on the approbation of the Colonial Secretary the children are admitted.

209. It seems to me that in a town like Graaff-Reinet you should have a great many more who ought to come in?—Yes, we have a great many, and at Aberdeen there is a great number of such children who should come in. Of course, I have not the funds. I used to be a shareholder in the Good Hope Bank, and suffered when that bank failed. I only wish I could give my work over to another lady and go about the Colony and look for these waifs and strays.

210. But in your neighbourhood there are more than you have got in the Home?—Yes. There have been cases brought before our Resident Magistrate through our minister and admission applied for, but the answer was, "These children do not fall under Act No. 24 of 1895," although they were perfectly destitute children.

211. *Chairman.*] The three classes in that Act of 1895 are strictly adhered to by the Department?—Yes, strictly.

212. *Mr. Sauer.*] You do not admit any others under that Act?—That is what the Colonial Secretary says.

213. Have any of the children been indentured?—Yes; ten have left our Home. A couple of months ago one of our little girls was indentured to the wife of our minister, the Rev. Mr. Meiring, and when I asked Mrs. Meiring how Anna was getting on, the reply was, "She is a jewel."

214. So far it has been a success, and the girls have done well?—Yes; I have not had one failure.

215. As what are they indentured?—We do not like to say servants; we say mothers' helps, which is much nicer. I do not like the word servants. If you try to raise or elevate these poor whites, you must—

216. You must go slowly?—Yes.

217. You only take girls, of course?—Yes; there is a Home for boys in Graaff-Reinet, too.

218. You give them a general education, and then make them work in the house?—Yes, they do all the house work.

219. *Mr. Van Zyl.*] How many children have already passed through you?—Ten have already been indentured. I have two to leave during this year, and I have splendid situations for them already. I do not know what I will do to thank you if you will kindly assist me to get as many children from any town as you possibly can.

220. *Mr. Sauer.*] But you say there are some in your own neighbourhood?—Yes, but I want all.

221. *Mr. Van Zyl.*] What steps do you suggest to do this?—I do not know. Government ought to do something.

222. *Chairman.*] Do you think your institute is sufficiently known in the country?—I do not know; I should think so.

223. For instance, do all the ministers of the Dutch Reformed Church know about it?—To tell the truth, I have sent circulars—like those I have sent you, Mr. Chairman—to all the different ministers, but I am sorry to say there have only been a few answered.

224. Do you think if you had a little more generous assistance from the Government that that would facilitate your work?—Yes, certainly.

225. *Mr. Cartwright.*] I take it that all the children are white?—They are all white children. I have two little girls from Willowmore whose father and mother died within two days of each other.

226. *Mr. Orpen.*] Is yours the only institution of the kind in the country?—There is a Boys'

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Home of a similar nature under Act No. 24 of 1895 in Graaff-Reinet. but I do not know if there are any more in the Colony under that Act.

227. Is there any limit to the number that you are permitted to take into the Home?—It is just as many as we have room for.

228. *Mr. Cloete.*] Is there any limit or stipulation as regards age?—I think they can come from the early age of 4 up to 16. or perhaps not later than 15.

229. Until what age do you keep them in the Home?—I think 16 is the general age at which they leave.

230. *Mr. Abrahamson.*] You say you find a difficulty in filling up the vacancies you still have?—Yes.

231. Although there are a good many poor children about?—Yes; there have been applications. but their cases do not fall under this Act.

232. Do you find the poor people who are parents of these children desirous of getting the children into your place?—Some are and some are not; but, excuse me, I do not think the parents have any say in this matter. It is a compulsory Act.

233. What I mean is, supposing there are these children, do you find the parents ready to exert antagonistic influences against their going into the Home?—Some parents are and others are not. Some call it the “tronk”; I have known them to say that.

234. So that there is a difficulty?—I do not think there would be such a great difficulty if the Government gave us aid; of course, we can simply just take the children away.

235. The difficulty you find is that of filling up the vacancies you have?—Yes, I have a difficulty.

236. And you do not know exactly what the remedy would be?—The great remedy would be to speak very nicely to the Colonial Secretary and tell him—but I could not do that.

237. *Chairman.*] I want to clearly understand

that your difficulty is not so much the unwillingness of the children, or the want of children, as the strict interpretation of the Act by the Department?—Yes.

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238. They refuse to accept certain classes of children?—Yes. I will tell you what kind of child admission has been applied for and has been refused, if you will allow me?

239. Certainly?—I cannot remember in which month it was, but our minister, the Rev. Mr. Meiring, applied for the admission of a child. Very often I have to see our Resident Magistrate, and I happened to go to him one afternoon, when he told me that the admission of that child had been refused. He asked me, “Miss Möller, could ever a man have explained it in a better way than Mr. Meiring did? There is a man who lives in one of our very worst places. His wife died, and he is living now with a woman who has one son living with a native woman and one daughter living with a native man; and there is a little girl by his former wife. I cannot remember how old the little girl is, but this is the application Mr. Meiring has made for this child’s admission to the Home. She is surrounded, we may say, by these natives, but her admission is refused. The answer has come, ‘She does not fall under Act No. 24 of 1895.’” Now, what must become of this girl in future years? And there are other cases.

240. So that your difficulty is that the Act of 1895 is too strictly interpreted; it is interpreted in such a way that you cannot get hold of these children?—Yes.

241. *Mr. Abrahamson.*] You do not take coloured children in any circumstances?—No. I would like to ask you very kindly to suggest to the Government to pay me my salary, so that we can take the £50 given to me for our house, and not take that money away from our allowance.

242. *Chairman.*] To give a special grant for the matron?—Yes, a special grant for the matron, as much as they think would be sufficient.

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243. *Mr. Cartwright.*] With regard to children coming under your influence above the age of, say, 4 or 5, as a rule have they received any education. or are they very ignorant?—Two years ago a girl in her fifteenth year came to us from Beaufort West—in fact, there were two sisters of 13 and 14, and they did not know their alphabet.

244. Is that the general condition?—Yes.

245. *Chairman.*] When the children come to your institute they have had practically no education?—Most of them not. I want you to understand that I have no national feeling in this matter at all: what I want to get is all the waifs and strays of South Africa.

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246. *Chairman.*] What position do you hold?—I am Locomotive Superintendent on the Midland System.

247. Stationed at Uitenhage?—Yes.

248. How long have you been in that position?—Since 1885 or 1886.

249. So that you have had 20 years' experience of the workshops at Uitenhage?—Yes.

250. During that time have you had any people from the country—what they usually call poor whites—in your employment?—Yes, several.

251. Has the number increased from time to time?—It is gradually increasing.

252. What is your experience about these men as workmen?—They are not altogether satisfactory; they are rather slow in their work, and they require a good deal of supervision.

253. Do you trace any improvement as they get more experience?—Yes, they improve as they remain with us.

254. Do you find that the better educated ones give more satisfaction?—Yes, they do.

255. So that it all depends really on the training they have had before they come to you?—Yes.

256. How many do you think you have got in your employment now under you?—Amongst the

ordinary labourers—that is, not including skilled labourers—there are 254 what you might call Colonial born, against 26 not Colonial born.

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257. That is the unskilled labourers?—Yes.

258. *Dr. Smartt.*] That is your total of unskilled white labourers?—Yes, in the workshops.

259. *Chairman.*] And skilled?—I have the skilled labourers separately in a list I have here. In this list there are 38 Colonial born and 18 not Colonial born.

260. *Dr. Smartt.*] That is skilled white labourers?—Yes.

261. *Mr. Sauer.*] That is 38 Colonial born out of a total of 56?—Yes.

262. *Chairman.*] And mechanics?—We have 180 Colonial born, against 253 not Colonial born.

263. *Mr. Abrahamson.*] When you say “Colonial born,” does that mean both nationalities—English and Dutch?—Yes.

264. *Chairman.*] Have you any other class of workmen there besides the three you have given us?—No, that is the lot.

265. Have you totalled the Colonial born and non-Colonial born for the three classes?—No, I have not given you the total. I have not included the steam shed at Uitenhage. We do not consider that part of the workshops proper, as we have steam sheds all over the line. But I have the information here for the steam shed. There are 21 not Colonial born and 54 Colonial born. Those are firemen and cleaners.

266. You have not the information as to the drivers and enginemen in the Department on your System?—No, I have not got that, but I could get it for you.

267. But from your knowledge you are able to say whether there are any Colonial born?—Yes; a large proportion of the firemen are Colonial born—a great proportion.

268. And do they give satisfaction?—Not altogether; there are some good and some bad.

269. From which districts do you draw your

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supply of Colonial born?—They come from within 100 miles of Uitenhage. They all drift into Uitenhage, knowing we require workmen; and, of course, they are taken on if we want them.

270. In taking on men, do you consider the question whether they are Colonial born or not?—No, we do not consider that at all.

271. So that you do not give preference to a man born in the country if an application is made?—No, we just take on the more suitable man. As a rule, the only choice we have is from the poor whites at Uitenhage; no others turn up, and have not done so for years.

272. If you have, say, two men applying for the same position, one Colonial born and one not Colonial born, would it make any difference to you?—We would not take that into consideration; we would take on the more suitable man.

273. Do you think that there is a marked difference in the efficiency of the Colonial born and the non-Colonial born?—I would not say a marked difference.

274. Taken man for man, you think there is not much difference for the same class of work?—No; as I say, there is a slight difference, if you compare them. for instance, with the British working man that we had here when I first came to the Colony. Then, no Dutchmen at all applied for work at the Uitenhage shops. and the class of man we had then was the sailor class. Sailors used to run away at Port Elizabeth from the ships. Comparing them with that class of man, they are not quite so good. The sailor class was a sharper man, quicker, and more useful.

275. *Mr. Sauer.*] Of course, they had had some previous training?—Yes, and they were more suitable for the work. And then they were not quite so illiterate; they were illiterate, but not quite so much.

276. *Chairman.*] You think the State gets value for its money in employing these people?—Yes, I should say they did. Of course, if we could

select from the whole of England, I think we could get better value, but taking it from the Colony I do not suppose we could.

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277. You recognise that these men are here and that they must live, and if you can give them useful employment it is an advantage?—Yes.

278. You take that into consideration?—Yes.

279. Do you think that the number of applications has been increasing in recent years?—I do not know if they are increasing, but I know there are a great number out of employment. Before the war I used to be pestered there frightfully with men, and used to have as many as 20 hanging round the gate looking for work, and we had not work for them. There are not so many now, but there are quite sufficient. I cannot take on all that are offering, as I have not work for them.

280. And you do not hear very many complaints about these men?—No, nothing out of the way.

281. On the whole, the Department at Uitenhage is satisfied with this class of workman?—Yes, I suppose I may say that.

282. And you think that if other centres do not employ the same number of these men, they could safely be asked to give these men a trial?—Yes.

283. That is your experience?—Yes.

284. *Mr. Sauer.*] What is the total number of men you employ in the workshops?—White men?

285. Yes, white men?—Shall I give you the total exclusive of the steam shed?

286. Yes, exclusive of the steam shed?—There are 874 in the shop—in what we call the workshops proper.

287. And in the shed?—There are 75.

288. In the workshops, how many men out of the 874 are men of the country—born here, or who have been here since their childhood and grown up here?—561, against 313 non-Colonial.

289. And in the shed?—54 Colonial born, and 21 not Colonial born.

290. As a rule, at what ages do you take men on in the workshops?—Do you mean the ordinary

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white men? You are not talking about apprentices now—the boys?

291. No, I am not talking of the apprentices, but of the able-bodied men you take on in the workshops; how many of them are there in the workshops, did you say?—561.

292. What ages, as a rule, do you take those men on at?—They will run between 21 and about 40. There are some older than 40, but I would not care to take a man on over that age.

293. The bulk of the men would be between those ages?—Yes.

294. These people, I suppose, are mostly illiterate?—Yes, mostly.

295. They have had little education?—Yes.

296. And they belong to what is called the poor white class?—Yes.

297. They have had hardly any education?—Very little; they are very illiterate.

298. Do you find if you take them on at the age of 21 or so that they improve?—Yes, the younger they are the more they improve and get into the work.

299. You think the chief reason why they are not so good as they might be, or one of the chief reasons, is want of previous education?—I think that has a good deal to do with it.

300. Are they easily managed?—Yes, there is no difficulty about that.

301. What wages do you pay them when they come in—take a man of 21?—They start now at about 7d. an hour; that is 4s. 8d. a day.

302. Are many of them family men when they come to you?—Many of them, yes; nearly all, because I give the preference to married men.

303. Do the great majority, after you have once taken them in, continue with you?—Yes, very few leave.

304. Is there a small or a large proportion that you discharge?—We discharge very few.

305. You discharge very few?—Yes.

306. Therefore you say that, in the main, con-

sidering their want of education and so on when they come in, they do fairly well?—Yes.

307. Are they a sober class?—Very sober.

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308. Of those who come in as labourers, do a good proportion get on to the level of being skilled workmen?—A few do, but not many.

309. That is largely owing, I suppose, to the fact that they were not taught anything in the way of using their hands for mechanical work before?—Yes, I suppose that is it—not being trained to it.

310. And, of course, it is more difficult to learn after you are of age than when you are young?—Yes.

311. Therefore you would say that if previous to their coming to you they had had a general education, with some teaching industrially—mechanically, I would rather say—they would make good workmen in all probability?—Yes.

312. In other words, they ought to be caught young?—That is proved in the fact that many of the apprentices are Colonial born.

313. At what age do you take the apprentices?—At 14 years of age; between 14 and 21 they are supposed to be under apprenticeship.

314. Is your supply mostly local for that?—Almost entirely.

315. A good many are railway men's children, I suppose?—They have got the preference, that is the sons of the workmen in the shops; there are very few others applying.

316. The apprentices you take at 14?—Yes.

317. They are as qualified as young men similarly situated would be anywhere, I suppose?—Yes. There is a qualification that they must have passed the 4th standard.

318. Do most of them who go in pass it?—They must; that is a condition.

319. They must pass that before you take them in?—Yes; and that test, I might say, would exclude a few of the poor white class.

320. Because they cannot pass the examination?—Yes.

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321. Are those who do pass satisfactory?—Yes, they do very well, and as well as the others.

322. You have said, as regards the adult labourer you require in the workshops, you have more applications than you can accept?—Yes.

323. As regards the apprentices is that so also?—No; we have just been able to find work for all those who have applied up to the present. It has been running us very close, but still we have managed it.

324. So that in the main, Mr. Thornton, you run your large establishment with Colonial men?—Yes, mainly with Colonial men.

325. And taking the conditions, the chief of which are removable, you would say they are fairly satisfactory?—Yes, certainly.

326. And if those conditions, such as previous education and training could be supplied, you think they would be quite satisfactory?—Yes, quite satisfactory.

327. *Mr. Van Zyl.*] Do you find that the apprentices stay on after they are 21?—Some do; others we would rather encourage to go away, because they get more varied experience by going elsewhere. It is a practice in the English shops that they do not allow apprentices to remain in the shops. They turn them away and say, "You may come back afterwards, but we had rather you go away and get more experience." We rather encourage that principle too. It simply means that they probably go to the Transvaal—to Johannesburg—and some go to East London, and some to Salt River; and so they do not really leave the service.

328. Do you find that many of them come back again?—Yes.

329. I suppose you have a very large number of coloured labourers also?—We have in our shops proper 82 natives.

330. As unskilled labourers?—Yes.

331. Have you any coloured skilled labour?—No.

332. And no coloured mechanics either?—No.

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333. You take boys in of 20 and 21 ; is there any chance of their picking up anything in the way of education ; would there be any possibility of having evening classes in connection with the workshops?—We have evening classes for the apprentices, but I suppose those men above 20 would not care to attend. They can attend if they like to, but none have ever offered to come.

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334. *Mr. Cloete.*] You mean that there is provision made, but they do not take advantage of it?—Yes, we have never had one of them at the classes.

335. *Mr. Van Zyl.*] Has an attempt been made to get them to attend?—I do not think I have had a single case where they have offered to come. I do not think we expected they would care to come, and I do not think we have asked them.

336. *Dr. Smartt.*] What are the wages of the 82 natives?—They average from 2s. 6d. to 3s. a day.

337. And do they do the same character of work and as good work as the unskilled white labourer?—The class of work they do is rather menial ; it is the most menial in the shops, and we keep them just for that purpose. We feel that it would be rather degrading to ask a white man to do what they would do.

338. *Mr. Sauer.*] In this country?—Yes.

339. *Dr. Smartt.*] You have no difficulty in getting that number of men at that pay?—No.

340. *Mr. Cartwright.*] Do you know, from your wide experience of Uitenhage and the neighbourhood, whether there are many of those boys called poor whites lolling about and having nothing to do there?—No, I do not know that there are. I do not see them about Uitenhage, and if they were there I would see them.

341. You would know?—Yes.

342. You do not know about the district?—No.

343. Anyhow, in Uitenhage and its immediate neighbourhood, you do not think there are many of those unemployed white boys?—No, I do not think there are many.

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344. You have told us that these boys do labour under disabilities, through the want of education, in coming in as apprentices?—Yes.

345. Is there anything being done to help them outside; what are their chances of getting an education?—They have to pass the industrial school there; there are a good number at that school.

346. *Mr. Orpen.*] Did you at one time employ a larger number of natives than you do now?—Yes, at one time. I forget what year it was, but things were very bad, and there were a larger number of poor whites in the town, and I found employment for those men.

347. Did you employ the natives only as unskilled labourers?—Yes.

348. There were never any natives employed as skilled labourers?—No.

349. Do you think you get as good a return from a poor white as an unskilled labourer as you did from an unskilled native labourer for the pay he got?—Yes.

350. *Mr. Cloete.*] Do any of the boys from the industrial school come up to you as apprentices?—Yes, some are passed on to us.

351. So that that school is a sort of stepping-stone up to you?—Yes.

352. From your evidence I gather that a large proportion of these workmen employed by you belong to the poor white class of Colonials?—Yes.

353. In other words, it would be very difficult for you to carry on there at all if you had not the assistance of those men?—We would require some labour of that kind.

354. You would have to import it if you had not all these Colonial men in those shops?—I could do with natives.

355. *Mr. Abrahamson.*] Have you given us the number of apprentices?—They are included in the number I have given. I should say we have over 100 apprentices.

356. To your knowledge, do similar conditions exist in other railway workshops, both in this Colony and in the Orange River Colony and Transvaal, with regard to the employment of Colonials?—I should say so.

357. You think so?—Yes. I think it is much the same.

358. Are the apprentices required to attend these schools?—Yes, it is compulsory attendance at these evening classes.

359. Do you get good results from these men?—Yes, they turn out very good men.

360. *Chairman.*] You say that sometimes you have more applications than you have room for?—Yes.

361. Is there any system by which you communicate that to other centres, saying that you have an excess of applications?—I could do so, but I do not, for the reason that I believe they do not require labour, and they can get sufficient at the various centres themselves.

362. You have never tried anything of that kind?—No.

363. So that you cannot tell us whether there is any reluctance on the part of these applicants to be shifted to other parts of the country?—No, I cannot say.

364. You have had no experience of shifting men, say from Uitenhage to Salt River?—Not any of that class.

365. Do you think that interchange of workmen might be an advantage?—I do not think it would do any good.

366. *Dr. Smartt.*] From an economic point of view, are you employing more apprentices than are really necessary, with a view of giving the boys an opportunity of becoming skilled tradesmen?—We have been; there are really more apprentices coming out of the town now than we can actually find work for.

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Mr. William McJannett, examined.

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367. *Chairman.*] What position do you hold?—
I am Superintendent of the Industrial School,
Uitenhage.

368. How long have you been in that position?—
—Over eight years; since 1st April, 1898.

369. How long did that institute exist before you
came there?—Three years.

370. How many boys have passed through your
hands during that time?—I could not say how
many have passed through my hands, but it must
be a large number. When I went there the boys
numbered about 30; now we have 78 on the roll.

371. *Mr. Sauer.*] Can you tell us approximately
how many boys have passed through your hands?
—I could not say. During the year I went and
inspected other industrial schools, I think it is
mentioned in the report that 21 went out of the
school in that year.

372. *Chairman.*] You can send us in a return?
—Yes.

373. What are the conditions under which you
admit boys?—We admit the poorest class of
whites. Of course, we have an admission form
which is filled up and signed by the Resident
Magistrate and Chairman of the nearest School
Board in the district, and then that form is sent on
by my honorary secretary, the Rev. D. G. Pienaar,
to Cape Town to the Education Department, and
the Education Department make enquiries into
the statements contained in that report, and they
will then say whether the grant is available or not.

374. Does your institute fall under the Act No.
24 of 1895?—No.

375. What are the conditions as to payment?—
You mean by the parents?

376. By the parents?—The parents pay nothing;
everything is free.

377. How do you support, financially, your
institute?—It is supported by the grants.

378. What are those grants?—For the year ending 30th June, 1905, the capitation grant from the Education Office amounted to £1,105.

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379. How much is it *per capitem*?—£15 per head.

380. Is that an annual grant?—Yes.

381. *Dr. Smartt.*] That is by the Government?—Yes.

382. *Chairman.*] And do they give grants for teachers and for the Superintendent?—Yes.

383. Will you give the particulars?—At the present time the Government grant towards the salaries amounts to £558 a year; the local contribution is £906 18s. 6d.

384. *Mr. Cloete.*] By whom is the local contribution made?—By the local Committee.

385. *Chairman.*] We have it now that the Government gives £15 capitation grant to each student per annum?—Yes.

386. What support does the Government give towards the Superintendent of the institution?—At the present time they give £120 and 15 per cent. bonus.

387. What do they give to the teachers?—£100 to the school teacher; £96 a year to the blacksmith; £96 a year to the shoemaker; £96 a year to the tailor; no grant is given towards the salaries of the wagonmaker, carpenter, or gardener; and £50 a year is given towards the matron's salary.

388. *Dr. Smartt.*] That totals the £558?—Yes.

389. *Chairman.*] That is as regards the Government contribution; now what local support have you got?—I have been eight years in Uitenhage, and the contributions from the benevolent public there have amounted to about £10.

390. *Mr. Sauer.*] For the eight years?—Yes.

391. *Chairman.*] What other income have you?—The receipts from the industrial departments last year were £2,862 3s. 3d.

392. How do you dispose of your products?—To customers who call at the institution; we have customers all over the Colony, in fact.

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393. Have you had any complaint as to competing with private firms?—There was a complaint at the beginning, but it was more on the surface than anything else. We really do not compete with private firms.

394. How do you mean?—We do not undersell them.

395. Do you find a ready market for your products?—Yes, I always take care of that. We send all over South Africa. We do not stick to the Cape Colony; we send to the Transvaal and the Orange River Colony as well.

396. What are the products?—We have a smithy, a farriers' department, we do wagon and cart building—not only repairing, but building wagons and carts as well—, we do carpentry and cabinet making, shoe-making, tailoring, and market gardening.

397. How large is the ground you have?—About 10 acres, I think.

398. Where did you get this ground from?—The Committee bought it for £750, I think.

399. How is that Committee formed?—It is formed by the Graaff-Reinet Presbytery of the Dutch Reformed Church.

400. Who is the Chairman of that Committee?—The Minister of Graaff-Reinet is really Chairman.

401. And the Secretary is the Rev. Mr. Pienaar?—Yes, Mr. Pienaar.

402. Your relations with that Committee have always been harmonious?—Yes, most harmonious.

403. Has the Dutch Reformed Church that appoints that Committee any control over the institute?—No, they leave everything in my hands.

404. There is no religious service held there?—On Sunday mornings the boys go to the Dutch Reformed Church; on Sunday afternoons—

405. Is that compulsory?—They must go to some church. It does not matter to what church they belong to, they are allowed to go to it.

406. You see that they go to church?—I see they go to some church.

407. *Mr. Sauer.*] They can go to whatever church they like?—Yes, they can go to whatever church they belong to.

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408. *Chairman.*] So that provision is made for the moral training of these children?—Yes. We have religious service every Sunday morning conducted by myself. On Sunday afternoons we have Sunday School; then in the evening the larger boys are allowed to attend church alone. On Monday evenings all the boys go to a prayer meeting at the Dutch Reformed Church.

409. Have you got a society for these young men where they train themselves intellectually a bit?—They get ordinary school education.

410. Have they no students' association for themselves?—No.

411. What provision is made for the intellectual training of these boys?—There is school education for two hours a day, from 9 to 11, when we take the junior boys and the boys in the lower standards; and in the higher standards we have the boys from 2 to 4. And on Saturday forenoons we have a mechanical drawing class from 9 to 11.

412. How do you select your boys for the particular trades?—As far as possible we give a boy a choice, but it is not always possible. Perhaps 90 per cent. of the boys who come to us would want to be carpenters, and we cannot take that number into the carpenter's shop. No trade teacher should have more than 20 boys under him, and when I find that that number is complete and a lad cannot get in there, I give him the choice of another wood-working department—wagon-making, for instance.

413. Do all your boys work in the garden?—Yes, one day a week.

414. All of them?—Yes, all of them.

415. Do they find that rather congenial work; do they like it?—Yes, they like it; it is a nice change from the workshops.

416. Have you somebody who teaches them gardening?—Yes, we have a European gardener.

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417. Have you sufficient applications to fill your institute?—Far more than will fill it.

418. That is, if you had more accommodation you could accept more of the applications for admission you receive?—We have accommodation for 80 now; if we had accommodation for double that number we could fill the school in a month.

419. What is your impression as regards the boys that have left your institute; have they been a success?—Yes; there is no doubt it lifts them out of their poverty-stricken state and just puts them in an independent position. All the boys have done well—in fact. I do not know of a single one who has gone back. They have all done well after leaving our institution.

420. Do you keep in touch with those boys after they have left?—Yes; I correspond with them as long as I can get them to write.

421. And you get them good situations?—Yes, I get them good situations. I give them testimonials of their abilities, and I do everything in my power to get them good situations; and I have no difficulty in getting them places.

422. *Mr. Abrahamson.*] Do they remain in the Colony?—Yes, they remain in the Colony.

423. *Chairman.*] Had you any experience of other industrial schools before you took over this school?—Yes, I had seven years' experience at home.

424. In Scotland?—Yes. in Scotland.

425. What is your impression as regards the abilities of those lads to learn industries?—I think you could not have finer material supposing you travelled all the world over than those lads to work with if they are properly managed—and they are very easily managed.

426. But there must be some supervision?—Yes, that is necessary.

427. And are you satisfied on the whole with the work which they turn out?—Yes—well, you are never satisfied; you are always aiming higher, of course. But the public are our judges, and if you

can satisfy the public then it is alright. We have to do that.

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428. Judging now as a man who has had experience, would you say that if we could multiply these institutions it would be a good thing for the country?—There is no doubt about it. I do not know of anything that would be better for the poor of the country than these institutions.

429. The fact that it is at Uitenhage and that you are in touch with the workshops there has not anything to do with the success of your institute?—Very little. I do not think we will have more than a dozen in the workshops. I do not know the exact number that are there just now, but I do not think it is more than a dozen.

430. Do those students of yours also attend the classes in the workshops?—No, none.

431. And do you not think it would save expense if you could take a certain number of the students in your institute and give them training in the workshops?—No; I find it is always best, for the sake of discipline, to have them under one's own control, and anything they have to get let them get it on the premises. When outside influences come in, then it is more difficult to manage the institution.

432. Have you got any debt on your institute at present?—There are two bonds: one of £2,200 and one of £600.

433. The £2,000 one is for the building?—Yes, and the one for £600.

434. Is there room on your ground, which you bought for £750, to extend your Institute?—Yes, plenty of room.

435. So that, if facilities could be given by Parliament to extend that institute, you would be quite prepared to undertake that larger work?—Yes. In connection with the industrial schools at Home we never have fewer than 100 boys in them, and they run up to 400. It would be just as easy for me to manage an institution with 400 as one with 80.

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436. *Mr. Sauer.*] About what would it cost to get this extension to enable you to double the number of your boys?—I have not thought that over. I should think it would cost £2,000 or £3,000, but that is about all. It would mean the extension of our workshops and boarding department.

437. For a couple of thousand pounds capital expenditure you could really practically double the work you are doing now?—I think we could.

438. You say you would have no difficulty in finding the boys?—No, there would be no difficulty there.

439. Are they all from Uitenhage and the neighbourhood of Uitenhage?—No, they are from all parts of the Colony; from Beaufort West and from East London.

440. Are they mainly drawn from what is called the poor white class?—Almost entirely.

441. If they do not come to an institution of that kind, they are almost waifs and strays and grow up of very little use to the community?—Yes; unless they are tempted into an institution of this kind their chances in life are really lost.

442. At what age do they leave you?—No one is allowed to leave who is younger than 18. We do not admit pupils under 13 years of age, because we consider that any boy younger than that is really too young for an industrial training. We admit them from 13 to 17. When boys are admitted at 13, 14 or 15, they stay till they are 18; when they are admitted at 15 to 17 they must remain three years.

443. When they leave you do they speak both languages—Dutch and English?—Yes.

444. Both languages?—Yes.

445. What standard in regard to what we call book education do they get to?—To the 6th standard. I have with me the report of the inspector who was examining the school at the beginning of this month, and I will read it to you:—"The institution is in a very healthy state. The boys

are very well behaved, and take interest in their work. Most satisfactory progress has been made. Reading has been very carefully taught. Dictation was good up to standard 5, where it was very fair. Writing was good. Arithmetic was very good in standards 1, 2 and 3, and very fair in standards 4 and 5. Composition was fair, and the grammar professed very satisfactory. The style of the written work was most commendable. A very sound training in all the trades is being given."

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446. You say from your experience that these boys that you train there are quite as good as the same material you would find anywhere for the work required of them?—They are as good as the best material you will find anywhere, I am quite sure, coming from the same class.

447. And they readily find employment when they leave you?—Yes, they have no difficulty in getting situations.

448. As a rule, do any set up for themselves?—Many set up for themselves. It very often happens that two brothers come to the school together, and the one learns blacksmithing and the other wagon-making, and after they leave the school they start a blacksmith and wagon-building business. That has happened on many occasions.

449. And they go to different parts?—Yes.

450. *Mr. Van Zyl.*] If you extended your building would you not require more ground?—I think we have sufficient.

451. As regards the grant from the Education Department, you say you receive £15 a head; have you ever any difficulty in getting that money from the Department?—None whatever; in fact, I have been very fortunate in getting the grants. I have had no difficulty with the Department so far as that is concerned.

452. *Dr. Smartt.*] What is the value of contributions or donations either from religious institutions or charitable organisations or from the public to your institution?—£10 in eight years.

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453. *Chairman.*] So that your institute is self-supporting with the Government grant?—Yes.

454. *Dr. Smartt.*] In selecting the children to be taken into this institution, if there are more applications than there are vacancies, who decides as to those that should be taken and those that should be left?—We generally decide ourselves. We send in what we consider the most desirous cases for the approval of the Education Department. Of course, we have our information sent in to us about cases as well as the Education Department.

455. *Mr. Cloete.*] What do you mean by “most desirous” cases?—Most deserving cases.

456. *Dr. Smartt.*] The final arbiter is the Education Department?—Yes. We cannot take in paying pupils; we have been offered them several times, but we cannot take them in.

457. In taking the pupils you make no difference as regards their religion or nationality or anything of that sort?—No distinction is made.

458. You insist upon their being British subjects?—Yes, that is all we want to know, whether they are British subjects.

459. With regard to a sub-department in connection with a school of this sort, whereby you would be prepared to take in children of people who were prepared to pay a small fee, do you think that such a department would be successful?—I think it ought to be. You can easily see that the children of the poorest class of people have a better chance of getting this training (because they can be admitted to an industrial school) than the children of a class of man who is prepared to pay so much towards the education of his children, who cannot be admitted.

460. *Mr. Abrahamson.*] If you took paying pupils, would that not keep out the poorer classes to a great extent?—You can have an institution of that kind for that class.

461. *Dr. Smartt.*] Is the land you have at Uitenhage irrigable?—Yes, we get 12 hours’ water every third day from the town.

462. And if you had an experimental station, an experimental plot in connection with your institution, would the boys be likely to take an interest in getting lessons in practical irrigation?—Undoubtedly they would.

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463. *Mr. Cartwright.*] When the boys come in, do they wear uniform at all?—Not now; I had a uniform at one time, but since we started a tailoring department ourselves I have done away with it.

464. I notice there is an item "clothing" in your list of figures?—Yes, we provide all the clothing.

465. Underclothing?—Yes, and suits as well. We make them all on the premises. The suit I am wearing now was made on the premises. We make for customers as well.

466. There is an educational examination, I suppose, that the boys must pass before they come in?—No, and I do not think it would be advisable to have such a test.

467. *Dr. Smartt.*] I suppose the parents of the boys are so indigent that they cannot give them any education?—Sometimes we have boys of 13 who do not know the alphabet.

468. *Mr. Cartwright.*] Boys must be 13 to be eligible for admission to the school?—Yes.

469. Can you give us an idea of how many of these boys that come in at that age are absolutely ignorant; are there some of them that have had no education whatever?—Yes, many of them.

470. At the age of 13?—Yes.

471. White boys?—Yes, and at 17 too. I got one from Colesberg last week; he is 17 years of age, and is just beginning at the first standard. He is a big strong lad.

472. And it is your opinion that there are many such boys here and there throughout the Colony in the same condition to-day?—Yes; from the number of applications we have for admission, there is no doubt there is a large number throughout the Colony who ought to be receiving a training.

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473. *Dr. Smartt.*] What are the majority of the boys, Dutch or English ; or is it largely one and the other ?—The majority are Dutch boys.

474. A Dutch majority ?—75 per cent. I should think.

475. *Mr. Orpen.*] When the boys leave the institution are they destitute ?—No ; most of the boys have their parents.

476. I mean themselves individually ; do they go away just as they came—without anything ?—No, not at all ; they are placed in a situation unless they have already got a situation to go to.

477. I mean as far as their private position is concerned ; is there any system in the institution whereby, in connection with the work done by these boys in the various trades, there is a small amount put to their credit ?—No.

478. Do they earn anything in the institution ?—No ; they get an outfit when they leave.

479. *Dr. Smartt.*] Do you not think it might be a good plan to introduce a system of bonuses by which a certain amount of the proceeds of the labour of these boys should be credited to their account and given to them when leaving, so as to be of some assistance to them when they have left the institution ?—I question whether it is advisable. It has been done in many schools at Home, but the parents of the boys in those schools are in a much poorer condition than the parents of the boys we have—even the poorest. And I think, judging from the money orders that these boys receive, it is not necessary.

480. *Mr. Orpen.*] I understand you to say that the boys are provided with an outfit when they leave ?—Yes.

481. What do you mean by that ?—I mean clothing, not tools.

482. *Mr. Cloete.*] I see your balance sheet is to 30th June, 1905 ; how many boys have you received since that time ?—We have 78 now.

483. There is an item here amongst the payments, “medical attendance, £1 10s.” ; do you mean

to say that that was all the medical attendance you had to pay for?—That was all that was necessary.

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484. Then the health of the boys is extremely good?—Excellent. We have not had a case of death in eight years, and only one serious case of sickness; it was a case of double pneumonia, and we pulled him through, but we sent him home afterwards.

485. *Mr. Abrahamson.*] Is all the work of the institution done by the boys themselves?—Yes.

486. Do you keep any black boys at all?—No, we do not have black boys on the premises—nor women either.

487. *Dr. Smartt.*] The boys do all the work?—Yes, except that they do not do the cooking; I have a European for that purpose. They do all the scrubbing of the dormitories, the cleaning up, and so on.

488. *Mr. Cartwright.*] And make their own beds?—Yes.

489. *Chairman.*] You will send in a return of the number of students that have passed through your institution from the commencement?—Yes—at any rate, for the eight years I have been there.

490. And if possible for the whole time?—If possible.

491. Have you got any suggestions to make in connection with the improvement or the extension of the scope of your institute?—I do not know of anything just now, except that there is need for extension, and for extension there is need for money; and we require to open other industrial departments. There is one matter I should like to mention. About six months ago we found we were in a position to spend about £120 on band instruments, and started a brass band at Uitenhage. When Dr. Muir was round about two months ago I spoke to him about having those instruments passed through the Customs free of duty, and he said it would be alright, and if I sent on the invoices to him he would have them stamped and

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return them to me. Then our agents at Port Elizabeth sent on a certificate, saying I was to send that certificate on to the Commander of the Colonial Forces at King William's Town, who would sign the certificate, and they would then get the instruments through the Customs free of duty. However, after a delay of a fortnight, this officer said he could not see his way to sign the certificate, because we "were not a unit of the Colonial Forces." The result was that, although the Education Department had stamped those invoices, the Controller of Customs at Uitenhage refused to allow them to pass free of duty, which meant that we had to pay £6 9s. 8d.

492. *Dr. Smartt.*] Did you ever approach the Treasury: those are the only people who could have remitted the duty?—No.

493. *Mr. Cloete.*] I suppose you wanted those instruments for the purpose of training boys in music?—Yes.

Friday, 23rd June, 1906.

PRESENT :

Mr. MALAN (Chairman).

Mr. Sauer.

Mr. H. S. van Zyl

Mr. Abrahamson.

Mr. Orpen.

Mr. Cartwright.

Mr. Cloete.

The Commissioner
of Public Works

Mr. Isidor Hanau, examined.

Mr.
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494. *Chairman.*] You live at Wynberg?—Yes.

495. Have you any experience of the country?—
Oh, yes; I have spent the best part of my life in the North-Western Districts.

496. In which parts?—In the Victoria Division, which embraces Carnarvon, Kenhardt, Prieska, etc.

497. During your career you have come very much in contact with what are called the Poor Whites?—Yes, very much.

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498. Will you give the Committee shortly your opinion as to the best way of dealing with this question?—As regards assisting the adults, I do not see much chance except of course in works, but I think the solution of the problem lies in educating the coming generation. Nine years ago I took this matter up while living in Wynberg, and drew attention to the piteous state of the North-Western District and the poor and starving population. It struck me even then, and that is years ago, that there was going to be a big Poor White question on account of the conservative nature of our up-country population.

499. Do you not think that the fact that they live far apart and away from the schools has a good deal to do with that?—I am coming to that later on. I am giving you my opinion, which is that they should be assisted with industrial schools, that is, schools where the pupils would be taught different trades. At the present time when a man wants his harness repaired or something goes wrong with his machinery, he has to go to the village to get it repaired, and I think the youths attending the different schools should be taught how to execute those necessary repairs. There is a lot of talent amongst them, and all that it requires is developing. I knew a young man who could almost do anything with machinery in the way of repairs, but he could only get so far and then he would come to a sudden stop. He would say, "It is a pity my father did not have me better educated, and then I could have done it." One hears the same remark on all sides.

500. Did you find that there is a desire for education amongst these people?—Yes. Of course I am speaking of years ago. That is eighteen or twenty years ago, I took this matter up long ago, and as the ramifications of our business went up as far as Prieska I came very much into contact with these people.

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501. *Mr. Cartwright.*] Are not the ranks of these adults even now being added to in the natural course of events?—Oh, naturally with these different scourges and the continual droughts and the war. Although I do not go up there very often now, I am kept fairly well informed as to the state of things, and I am told it is very bad. There is no good trying to put the rising generation on the land; you must educate them.

502. But simply taking away the children will not solve the problem?—Oh yes, it will. I am going into the question of how to solve the problem as it is at present.

503. What is the cause of the ranks of the Poor Whites being so much augmented of late?—I will speak very straight, and it is not with the idea of casting any odium on the people, but it is the conservative nature of the people, and they do not like honourable exceptions.

504. *Mr. Sauer.*] Is that not caused through ignorance?—I should say it is.

505. *Mr. Cartwright.*] Do you mean that others work for them on the land but that they will not work themselves?—The majority of them say, “Ne, ek es ne vaark.” When I was up-country I spoke to the ministers of the Dutch Reformed Church on this very same subject. I spoke to the Rev. Mr. Meider, and told him that the remedy for this state of affairs lay in his hands, and that he must tell his congregation that they must not live on their rich relations nor rely on them to the extent that they did. I told them that they must go out and work, and they looked at me askance.

506. Perhaps these people are not so much to blame. You see they are living in pastoral districts, and labour is not required there so much as in other districts?—That is so, but you see the families living on these farms keep on increasing, and there is not sufficient to keep them all unless some of them go out and do some work. From their ignorance of solving the problem they will go

on in the same old way for years to come. The girls must sit at home and wait until they get husbands, and perhaps a couple of the boys will look after the sheep, and the rest of them will hang about the farm and get up to all sorts of mischief. I sympathise with them, and I really believe that we must find them work. I think I have the solution to a certain extent. You have a large population of adults at the present time and——

507. *Mr. Sauer.*] Tell us what you propose to do? —I will read you an extract from an article I contributed some years ago to the *Wynberg Times*, but which is unsigned. It was practically for the pastoral farmers.

“I hold that Government should step in and assist the stock farmers, the mainstay of the country, in the saving of their flocks—thus bringing about eventually the cheapening of food for the people, and the increase in the production of the great staple article ‘Wool.’ My suggestion (made years ago already) is as follows, viz., that at certain centres, especially in the northern districts, Government should have artesian wells made with appliances for pumping or lifting out the water and for watering stock, or else (where water is obtainable at shallow depth, the old ‘Noriah’ bucket pumps or windmills, all under the control of the Field-cornet or nearest official)—the maintenance would be trifling, the benefits immense, and the cost a ‘tithe’ of the thousands wasted on wild cat schemes like the Van Wyk’s Vlei and Rooiberg (Kenhardt), and Thebus reservoirs. The wine farmer, the agricultural farmer and others are being assisted annually, but what substantial assistance from the public funds has the unfortunate stock farmers had especially those who have enriched the exchequer by buying at exorbitant rates and paying *continuously* heavy interest of quitrent on Crown Lands sold by Government in the north-west and other districts? I am sorry not to be able to give statistics, but the figures would astound some of your readers. The proceeds of those sales

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have built many miles of railways years ago to more favoured *districts* and 'to reach the coveted north,' but during *every* drought (and they come with regularity] the farms of the pastoral farmers are isolated and they cannot even reach the nearest railway station with the impoverished flocks to 'seek pastures new,' because there is no water!

"May this seed germinate, and an abler pen than mine take up the cudgels in this good cause and rouse the South African Lion to insist on "Parliament providing water' for the wants of their people, the bulk of the Electors!"

508. Have you satisfied yourself, and have you reason to believe that there is plenty of water?—Absolutely.

509. *Mr. Sauer.*] But in that article you have just read you want to assist those people who have stock; we want to look after those people who have none?—I am coming to that. You will see that in that I recommend the Government to go in for a system of dams and wells, and that is work that the Poor Whites can do.

510. *Mr. Abrahamson.*] But do you think they will come and do work like that?—Offer it to them, and if they do not, then let them starve. It is not right for us to be pessimistic and say they will not work; if there is work for them, offer it to them, and if they will not do it, it is not our fault.

511. Have you had any experience as to their capabilities for work?—Oh yes, a good deal.

512. And what do you think of them?—They are good working men.

513. Do you know of their capabilities for agricultural work?—Yes.

514. Do you think they understand it?—Yes. They are gifted, but they have not the experience one would gain at a College like Elsenberg.

515. Do you think that if some feasible scheme was to be originated that these men would make good material for placing on settlements?—Yes.

516. *Mr. Cartwright.*] Do any number of these men drift towards the villages and dorps?—Yes.

517. And there, I suppose, they hang about and eventually become demoralised?—Yes. They used to become carriers, but the railways are doing away with them.

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518. And you think it is best to keep them away from the villages?—Yes, especially the adults; but the younger ones should be taught industries and trades. I certainly favour a number of the youngsters in the family being taught trades and being educated in industrial undertakings. As an instance for the necessity for this I may mention that in the Kenhardt district there used to be no blacksmith, and the result was that the farmers had to go a good many miles to get one.

519. *Mr. Sauer.*] You mean to say that there is an opening for teaching these trades and industrial works?—Yes.

520. *Mr. Abrahamson.*] Do you remember that years ago there used to be a good many more Dutch people engaged in artisan trades than there are now?—There used to be a good many, but I cannot say how many there are now.

Mr. Charles Searle, examined.

521. *Chairman.*] You are a member of the House of Assembly?—Yes.

Mr.
C. Searle.

522. And you represent the district of George?—
Yes.

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523. You live at Great Brak River, in the district of George?—Yes.

524. You, of course, have a knowledge of the state of the Poor Whites in the district. I mean the woodcutters as well as the industrial side?—Yes.

525. You and your firm have got a large industrial establishment at Great Brak River?—Yes. A tannery and boot factory.

526. Where you employ a number of Poor Whites?—Yes.

527. Can you give the Committee a knowledge of their capabilities and faculties for working at the kind of work that is carried on in your factory?—Well, we have a large number employed, and we find them very good workmen.

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528. Have you a large number of white employés in your factory?—Yes, I believe there are between fifty and sixty.

529. Do you find that they readily come into these factories?—Yes, especially the younger ones. The older ones who have been brought up on farms have a very strong tendency to go back to the land. The younger ones who have been brought up in the village like to work in the factory.

530. Is any provision made at the factory for the education of the children?—Yes. We have a good school in the village, but we never employ children until they have passed the fourth or fifth standard in the school.

531. Do you encourage these people to come into the works?—Oh, yes. Of course they come in as apprentices when about fourteen or fifteen years of age and learn the different branches of the work. I refer to the boot factory now, as we never take children into the tannery.

532. Do you find that these men who have been trained in the factory want to go back to the land?—No, when they have learned the trade they find that there is much more money in it than they can make on the land. The older men who have grown up on the farms have a tendency, after they have accumulated a little money, to get a few cattle and go back to the land again. They want to go farming again, but the younger ones who have not been brought up on farms have no inclination to go back to the land.

533. So you think that the employment of Poor Whites in industries of this kind will be a solution of the Poor Whites question?—Yes. It will also help the surrounding farmers, because these people have to be fed and the farmers in the district round about can send in their produce, which will find a ready market.

534. *Mr. Sauer.*] What age do you take them on at?—In the tannery we do not take children, we only take adults, but in the factory we take in boys generally at about fourteen years of age.

535. The adults would be people with little education?—Yes.

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C. Searle.

536. Do you find that these people you take on are good workmen?—Yes. We have had the imported men and the Colonial men, and we prefer the Colonial men.

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537. And of the people you have employed there, what number are Colonial white men?—About fifty.

538. And how many do you employ altogether?—About eighty.

539. Then the great majority of your employes are Colonial?—They are all Colonial except the foreman of the tannery and the foreman of the boot factory.

540. And are they drawn from the neighbourhood in which you live?—Yes, the majority of them are; of course there may be a few exceptions.

541. And they belong to the Poor White class, and have either lost their land or never had any?—That is so.

542. Do you get many applications for employment that you cannot comply with?—No. You see the amount allowed to the apprentices until they know the trade is so low that they have to live with their parents in the village, and consequently there are not many applications from outside, and the place where the factory is has a population of only about 500.

543. If there were a number of such industries in the George district as you have started, do you think the youngsters would be glad to join to learn a trade?—Yes. If the business of our factory was in a more stable condition we could take many more apprentices, and would be glad to get them, but the way in which our industry is placed at present does not warrant our doing so.

544. Are the adults easily managed?—Yes.

545. Sober?—Yes.

545A. And you do not have any difficulty with them; even as a class they are sober —There are exceptions, of course.

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546. Is there a marked difference in the work done by the people who come to your works as youngsters and those who come as adults?—Oh yes, there is a marked difference. The men who come in as boys do the work much quicker. Our work is nearly all piece work, and consequently those who are quickest have the advantage.

547. They take quickly to the work?—Yes.

548. *Mr. H. S. van Zyl.*] What educational facilities have they? Have they a free school?—We have a third class school with three teachers.

549. Is there any religious organisation for them?—No. Of course, the majority of them belong to the Dutch Reformed Church, and the ministers come there periodically to hold services. We have a building there which we let them use as a church. I think it is advisable whatever religious denomination the people belong to, that they should have some religious supervision.

550. *The Commissioner of Public Works.*] Your place is ideally situated for a factory?—Yes.

551. And ideally situated to take apprentices?—Yes.

552. Your water supply and all that is perfect?—Yes.

553. What is your idea as to the solution of the problem in connection with the older section of the population, that is the Poor White population? Why I ask you is because you say that the older people desire to get back to the land?—We have taken the older men with families on to give them a trial, that is men who have worked on farms, and we have generally found that these men, when they have accumulated enough money to buy a few oxen, want to return to the land, but their children who have not been brought up on farms have not the same tendency.

554. So that with a large majority of the people of this country who have lost all their stock, is it your opinion that if you are going to do anything for them some means must be devised for putting them back on the soil?—Yes, and of course you

must educate the children; they must get every educational advantage.

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C. Searle.

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555. Can you give the Committee some idea as to the results that have attended some of these older people who have returned to the soil after accumulating enough money to start again?—I am sorry to say some of them have to come back again. They go back on the land, struggle along for a while, and then have to come back to us again. We had an instance of that not very long ago.

556. Does your experience lead you to believe in re-settling them it should be done under supervision?—Yes.

557. And you think there should be settlements?—Yes, so as to give the children educational advantages.

558. Under what control would you have them. Under State control or what control?—I do not think they should be directly under the control of Government. They should be directly under the control or supervision of some people in whom they have confidence. They do not always have confidence in the Government.

559. *Mr. Sauer.*] And you want moral influence?—Yes. I take it that if the Government supplies funds they will have some control.

560. *The Commissioner of Public Works.*] In placing the people on the soil, are you in favour of putting them on as tenants or with the prospects, if their behaviour is good and they show a thrifty nature, of eventually acquiring the land?—Yes. I think there is always a strong inclination amongst the people of this country to be owners of the soil, no matter how small the piece may be.

561. *Mr. Orpen.*] Were these factories started as a business concern?—Yes, they were originally started in 1887 with a small boot shop.

562. And the fact that you employ Poor Whites is because it is the most suitable labour?—No, but they are most satisfactory.

563. Then you had no philanthropic idea in starting it?—No.

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564. *Mr. Cartwright.*] You told us that these Poor Whites are chiefly from your own neighbourhood? —Yes. We have a great many of them, unfortunately.

565. To what do you attribute the condition of these Poor Whites? Is it that there is no work for them on the farms?—Of course that is it. A great many of them are drawn from the Knysna and were engaged in forestry work, and a good many of them are the children of farmers who have lost their land, and as a result have had to become labourers.

566. And why should they lose their land? Was it want of energy, or what?—In some instances it would be want of energy, but want of education has a lot to do with it, and then there is the bad condition of farming generally to be taken into consideration.

567. Taking these men as a whole, would you say there is an indisposition to work?—No, on the contrary, I think they are very glad to get work.

568. Then it is your opinion that they are glad to get work?—Yes.

569. But they will not take to the work of the coloured people?—They will work on the farms, but they do not care, they have not the inclination to go on the town works, unless forced to do so by circumstances.

570. So far as your own industry is concerned, you cannot take on all the young people who would be willing to go to you?—No, we cannot do so, because the state of the industry is so uncertain.

571. Can nothing be done to give facilities in that way?—I am a Protectionist, and if we had Protection as a policy, not Free-trade one year and Protection the next, many factories would be started, and give plenty of employment.

572. You mean by increasing the demand?—Yes.

573. *Mr. Abrahamson.*] There are a large number of these people in your neighbourhood, are there not?—Yes.

574. With regard to these people on the land, are they engaged in pastoral or agricultural pursuits?—It is mixed.

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575. You do not irrigate, do you?—In the summer time we do a little for our gardens.

576. Would it be possible for a man on a small plot of land, say of ten or fifteen acres, to make a living?—The great want up there is manure, and if we could get a plentiful supply of that the land would be very good. I look forward to the time when we will have the railway from George to Oudtshoorn.

577. You think that would to a great extent solve the question?—There is a great deal of land there which could be put to great use.

578. And you think it would be cheaper to have a settlement in a part of the country where there is no irrigation necessary than in a part where an irrigation scheme would have to be carried out?—You see the land requiring irrigation is generally richer soil.

579. *Mr. Sauer.*] In the adjacent district of Knysna there are a great many Poor Whites, are there not?—That is so.

580. And whatever the forest wood-cutter may be he is not lazy?—No.

581. On the wages they earn can they keep body and soul together?—In a way they can, but it is a very poor living, and the work is very hard.

582. *The Commissioner of Public Works.*] Is it a fact that the forest labourers work in spells and that when they do make a little money they go off and spend it, and when it is all gone they come back and begin working again?—No, the nature of the work they do is such that they cannot do it all the year round, and then they have to wait for the inspections by the Government Inspectors.

Mr. Francis Oats, examined.

583. *Chairman.*] You are a member of Parliament?—Yes.

Mr.
F. Oats.

584. You are, of course, engaged with the mining industry of the Colony?—Yes.

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585. Both at Kimberley and at Namaqualand? --
Yes, but I am only member for the latter place.

586. The Committee, as you know, is inquiring into the Poor Whites question, and they would like to know from you your experience of employing these people in mining industries?—I think that the labour of white European men in this country can be applied to mines to a greater extent than it is at present, but I do not think it is practicable to employ it to replace the unskilled labour which is now being done by Kafirs and natives. In times of extremity and scarcity of labour I have attempted it several times, but it has been unsuccessful.

587. At Kimberley?—Yes. Even if they can earn a living wage in any sort of contract system their work is evidently very distasteful, and the men eventually seek some other class of occupation. They can only be employed in the direction of supervising native labour.

588. In the mines?—Yes, and outside the mines, on the surface, which is the class of work they understand. My experience is that the Colonial overseer is a much better overseer than any imported one, but for underground work where a lot of training as a miner is necessary, it is not possible to employ them with the best results. It just occurs to my mind now, that when skilled miners are not in sufficient supply for all the underground posts, Colonial men have been tried but not successfully. I might explain that in most mines, whether in Johannesburg or Kimberley, there is a sort of regulation in force that there must be a European in charge of a certain number of natives, and as skilled miners are scarce, these men have been sent down with them; men who have little or no skilled miner's qualifications. If they would take to it, I believe that the Colonial would in the course of time become as good a skilled miner as the imported man.

589. So you would encourage as much as possible the employment of Colonial labour for these posts?

—Certainly, because first of all I think that the people of the country should get employment before strangers; secondly, because they are more reliable, in that they stay on and spend their lives in the same occupation.

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590. Do you encourage the training in education of the children of these miners?—It ought to be done, but it is only done on a very small scale at present.

591. Do you take apprentices?—Recently our manager at Kimberley has taken the children of miners and placed them in posts which will accustom them to underground methods, and gradually they will become conversant with the duties of a miner.

592. Do you think that experiment can be extended?—I think it can, and even more so in Johannesburg. I think it would be good if we had a sort of training school for young Colonial boys where they can learn to be miners.

593. Of course it is your experience that the educated class make better miners?—In every sphere of life the educated man is better than the uneducated man.

594. Have you many applications from Colonials to be miners?—I think that the supply of young lads in Kimberley is as much as can be absorbed by De Beers. If European lads are to be taken on and taught the duties of a miner they will have to do the same class of work as the Kafirs under the supervision of a miner. It would be a sort of apprenticeship, and they would learn to be miners, but they object. There is a sort of sentiment about doing Kafir labour. If they wanted to learn mining in other countries in which Europeans only are employed they would have to do it, and they would not object. It is just that silly sentiment of objecting under any circumstances to do the same class of work as Kafirs perform.

595. *Mr. Abrahamson.*] Is that the objection to working with Natives?—Yes, being classed as Natives. That objection on the part of the Whites

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has to be got over. Of course, as apprentices the wages paid to the European lads would be small, but they would have enough for sustenance. These boys could eventually become miners. A proper miner has to be trained from the bottom rung of the ladder.

596. *Mr. Sauer.*] That objection to work with the Native is not confined to the Colonials only, is it?—No. It is even more pronounced amongst the imported men. I can give you an instance. When I was in charge of a mine, a young man came to me one Monday and made a complaint. He was imported, and had not been on the mine more than a month or two. Very often all the boys do not turn up on a Monday, and when they do not the Europeans on the mine are expected to give a hand at doing the work there is to do. Well, in this case I am referring to, the general overseer told this man to help to load the trucks. He refused to do so, saying it was Kafirs' work. The overseer ordered him out of the mine, and then he came to me for redress, which, of course, I was unable to give.

597. *Mr. Sauer.*] Was he new to the country?—Yes. He came to me and said he had refused to load trucks. I said, "You had to do it before you came here," and he replied that if he had to do it on our mine he would not stay with us. I think that feeling is more apparent amongst the imported men than amongst the Colonials. The fact of the matter is that the imported man too often either licks or kicks the Natives, so to speak. It is one of two extremes, which the Colonial does not do in the same degree.

598. *Mr. Sauer.*] As regards the management and the duties appertaining to the position of overseer, how does the Colonial man manage the Native?—On surface work the Colonial man is, as a rule, better than the imported man.

599. Does he get the Natives to work better for him?—Yes. You see, by intuition he knows how to manage them. He neither licks nor kicks him. The Colonial seems to be able to appreciate the way the Native is working for him.

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600. Your firm employ a good many Colonials?—Yes, but not as miners. The miners require training from youth up, and the untrained man cannot be a good miner. At other work our experience is that the Colonial overseer is rather better than the imported. I will not say that we do not get good imported overseers, but they are very mixed. Speaking as a whole, our experience is that the Colonial overseer knows how to handle the Native better than the imported man, and the Natives give better results when workingg for Colonials than they do when working for imported men. What is more, they are at home and they feel at home. It is their country, and they know it. They are more satisfied than the imported man, who is always looking forward to going home, or else wants to move about from one place to another.

601. And do they generally stay long with you?—Yes. The only thing against them is that what I mentioned with regard to the underground mining, and for that they must be trained.

602. And, of course, they have had no previous training or experience before entering your employ?—No.

603. And in your comparison you are comparing them with men who have had training?—Yes.

604. And supposing they had that training?—They will be quite as good as the imported men, and I do not see why they should not be better, because they know how to handle the Natives better than the imported man.

605. And they are willing to work where there can be work for them?—Yes. Anything like laziness, as a rule, you cannot reproach them with.

606. I suppose the imported men are better educated?—The average imported man is generally somewhat better educated than the majority of the miners in his native place, because he has to have the ability to emigrate. He has more initiative. I think that the emigrant we get out here is a better average man for mine work than the class from which he is recruited. He is a man who has

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burned his boats for the purpose of trying his fortune in another country. The class of man left at home is not as good as the man who comes out here.

607. Do you think if there were opportunities of obtaining labour that these white men would take it?—If it could be possible for lads from 13 to 18 years of age to go into the mines to work at the work at present done by Kafirs and for the wages drawn by Kafirs, they would eventually become competent miners, and would be able to take their proper place. To overcome their natural objection they ought to be described as learners. They would be taught to drill a hole, then to place holes, and lastly to load and fire them, and the various other work attendant on mining.

608. Would the amount you suggest giving them be a living wage?—They should have a sort of barracks, where they could live, and the amount they would get while learning should just about keep them.

609. *Mr. van Zyl.*] Do you know if the Poor Whites in Namaqualand have been tried at mining to any great extent?—I do not think they have. The mining community has never commingled with the poor farmers. They are a separate class altogether. They have coloured men working in the mines up there; but I think the feeling of the general class of Poor White up there is rather against working in the mines. The Poor White there does not take to mining work. There is a sort of feeling of repugnance against it. I think the only thing you can do is to get the lads to take up mining. The grown-up men will hardly ever take to underground mining. You will not find it in any community.

610. Have these people been tried in O'okiep?—There is no use in trying the old people. Even your mine managers have gone into the mines as boys, and if not, they would not have taken to it. It is just like the sea. You cannot take a man straight off a farm and make a sailor of him.

611. *Mr. Abrahamson.*] But could they not do surface work?—There is very little of that kind of work to be done up there.

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612. I suppose it would be more difficult to get them to take to mining in Namaqualand than in Kimberley?—That is so. The boys up there would have to come away from their homes, and you know how attached they are to their homes. I think it is only fair to say that in some instances there is a little lack of inclination on the part of mine managers to promote that sort of thing. They are mostly people who do not know the Poor White we are referring to, and when he comes to the mine manager there is very little sympathy extended to him. However, sympathy alone would not solve the question, and the only thing to do is to take the youths and put them to work in the mines, and by the time they are 20 or 21 years of age I have no doubt but that they will be able to hold their own with the imported men.

613. *Mr. Cloete.*] Do you know where you draw your Poor Whites from in Kimberley?—From the country around Kimberley.

614. You do not get them from the Knysna?—Oh, no; there are, unfortunately, plenty of them in and around Kimberley.

615. *Mr. Cartwright.*] I suppose there is nothing in the atmosphere of the mines that will make it unhealthy for young boys to work in them?—No. In the mines in Cornwall the boys go to work with their fathers, and begin at the very bottom rung of the ladder, and they will have to do the same out here. They begin at the very lowest work, and then there is no repugnance to the work to be done.

616. *Mr. Sauer.*] But the miner out here is better off than the miner there?—Yes. At Home the boy going to work with his father earns perhaps half the amount his father is earning, but out here we could not afford to pay them at that rate. If the boy is intelligent and willing to learn he will very soon learn how to drill and to place holes, until in

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the end he becomes as competent as the man brought out from England.

617. *Mr. Cartwright.*] What steps can you recommend in that direction to bring those results about?—Only representations to the mine managers that it is desired that lads should be trained to mining work so that they may be able to fill the different posts in the mines as they become vacant; and a regulation that they cannot fill these posts until they have had such training, and that the mine managers be asked if they cannot do anything whereby the lads can be trained under competent miners in the way I suggest.

618. And would you go to the extent of advising Government to contribute something towards that?—Well, it is a very difficult thing to ask the general taxpayer to make a contribution. I think that in order to tempt the mining companies to undertake that work that it should be pointed out to them that if the boys did not become competent, that whatever deficiency there was in the cost of sustenance would be made up to them in some way. There were several ways of having that amount settled up, such as that the lad on being apprenticed could undertake at some future time to recompense the mine owners. That would tempt the mining companies to co-operate.

619. Is there not a danger of the Natives as time goes on being so qualified in mining that some of them will be doing the work that is now being done by the trained miners?—At the present time the trained boy assists and looks after the untrained boys. I think the rule is not to allow a lot of untrained boys to go by themselves. It is really wonderful how little sense the inexperienced boy has.

620. Is it not possible that these Natives will be able to do the work now being done by the skilled miner?—Our experience is that very few of the 20,000 boys we have remain on long enough to get competent. They go back home after being with us for a short while.

621. *Mr. Abrahamson.*] This class of man you have been talking about, is he generally to be found amongst the indigent poor class, or amongst those who make a regular living?—They are not of the class we know as “Poor Whites.” In Kimberley we have done a little in the direction that has been suggested here. Our workshops have been made available for as many boys as we can do with, and a great number have come forward from the Colony, but they are not the class of person that is usually referred to as a Poor White. We have also put ourselves out to some extent to do something for the sons of miners, so that the boys will have some future before them, but I do not think anything has yet been done for the indigent whites.

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622. *The Commissioner of Public Works.*] The overseers are not from the indigent class?—No.

623. *Mr. Abrahamson.*] In Johannesburg there are a great many Colonial Dutch who do constructing work, but they are not recruited from the ranks of the indigent class?—On the Fourteen Streams Railway a great deal of the work was done by the poor Dutchmen, but they are not of the very indigent class. The result of giving small contracts to these men along that railway has been most satisfactory to the railway, and also the poor fellows who did the work—in fact, to everybody concerned. That matter was brought to our notice by the Government when they asked us to give employment to the Poor Whites. In fact, these men were anxious to have more railway work.

624. Do you think the solution of what to do with the indigent whites would be found in putting them back on the land?—I am afraid I am a poor authority on that.

625. *Mr. Cartwright.*] Are any of these Poor Whites working at the dynamite works at Somerset West?—Very few.

626. Is there no chance of getting employment for some of them down there?—I am afraid not; you see the work is of a very technical nature.

627. *The Commissioner of Public Works.*] But you have some Colonial men there?—Oh, yes.

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628. *Chairman.*] Do you encourage this class of men to go to you?—I do not think there has been enough of that sort of thing.

629. Do you think that if a circular was sent to the different mine managers they would act on it?—Yes. But, of course, they will have to train their miners, and it will require some time and some sort of organization or some special arrangement. To merely send out a circular and ask the mine managers to do what they can for the Poor Whites will not be sufficient. We know that the Poor Whites will not work along with the Kafirs, and therefore some arrangements will have to be made to deal with them as a distinct class, with a view to their becoming competent miners in the end.

630. Can you arrange for extending the facilities for education of these youths between the ages of 13 and 18 years whilst engaged in the mines?—That could certainly be done by having a series of evening classes. We have not got the boys yet, but supposing De Beers took fifty such lads into their employ, there is no reason why a series of night schools should not be started. That is what is done in Cornwall often, where the majority of our miners come from, and I do not see why it cannot be done here. Of course, there is the question as to whether these boys will be amenable to discipline. They live a wild and free life at the present time, and it is doubtful, if these boys had to go down into the mines and work hard down there, whether they would take to it. It is not so easy to get them to do so, and even with the best intentions, unless the people in charge were very patient, we would find these boys returning to their homes dissatisfied.

Mr. Francis William Pearce, examined.

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631. *Chairman.*] What position do you hold?—Chief Secretary of the Salvation Army.

632. You know that the object of this Committee is to inquire into the Poor White question and to ascertain what can be done to put these people on

the soil or else give them some other means of livelihood? You have got an agricultural settlement, I understand?—Yes, at Rondebosch.

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633. Will you give the Committee shortly what your experience is in regard to that?—It is understood, of course, that it is not a colonization settlement, but a charitable institution.

634. *Mr. Sauer.*] What class of people do you draw from?—Ex-prisoners, unemployed, and those who may be gravitating in the direction of gaol.

635. They are mostly from the towns?—Yes, but we also get some from the country.

636. *Chairman.*] How many have you got down there?—About forty.

637. Do they stay long with you?—Some stay weeks, some months, and others only stay a few days.

638. What kind of employment do you give them?—Market gardening, dairy work.

639. Do you pay them a wage?—No.

640. Then they go to you, and you provide them with board and lodging only?—Yes, and we also provide them with clothes, and in special cases, when they are going away to work, we provide them with tools, and often their railway tickets.

641. Your place is a sort of half-way house to send the men to employment?—That is so.

642. And you do not lay yourselves out to keep them on there?—No.

643. And as soon as they get work you encourage them to leave?—Yes.

644. How is this farm supported financially?—Practically it pays. Of course, we do not attempt to make a profit; our plan is to make it carry as many men as possible.

645. *Mr. Sauer.*] The class of people you draw from are mainly adults?—Yes.

646. That is, the poor who cannot get anything to do?—Yes.

647. The class of people you deal with are rather a floating class?—Many of them are unemployed from the country who have come to town in the

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hope of getting something to do, and have been unsuccessful.

648. At what ages do you take them on? At all ages?—Yes.

649. You say that you have had some men from the country; what class of men are they?—Well, some of them were of the farming class, and had lost everything. We have had them from Graaff-Reinet, Worcester, Kimberley, the Paarl, and Stellenbosch, and even Oudtshoorn.

650. Are the bulk of the men born in the country?—I cannot answer that without looking up my records.

651. Have you many Dutch poor?—No, not many; only a very few.

652. You have recently seen discussions about Poor Whites—have you many of that class of men?—No. The men who come to us are either destitute or men just out of gaol, or else inebriates who are sent to us from all parts of the country.

653. I suppose that in times of depression you have considerably more to deal with?—Yes.

654. They are not people from the land?—As a class, not.

655. *Mr. H. S. van Zyl.*] Do you follow up the history of these people after they leave you?—As far possible we do, but it is a very difficult thing in this country, which is so very large, and they move about so much.

656. You do not take in children on the farm?—No, we could not take children into an institution of that character—it would not be to the interests of the children.

657. Have you not got a similar place for children?—No. We were preparing such a scheme not very long ago, but we had to let it fall through, as—due to retrenchment—the Government assistance which we were relying on was not forthcoming.

658. But the children would be satisfactory subjects for such an institution?—Yes, we quite recognise that.

659. *Mr. Sauer.*] As regards the adults, I suppose that a good many of them drink?—Some of them do.

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660. *Mr. Cloete.*] I suppose you take in only white men on that farm?—That is so.

661. All men, no women?—We have separate homes for the women.

662. Have you a home for the coloured men?—No, we have a shelter.

663. Where is that?—In Prestwich-street.

664. Is it largely patronized?—No, not very much.

665. *The Commissioner of Public Works.*] With regard to these Australian experiments that have recently been carried out, can you give us any particulars?—I think the Australian homes have been a decided success. The Victorian Government closed their reformatories, and gave us over the children, and have also given us a weekly capita-tion grant.

666. From what class do you get these children?—Mainly from the neglected class, that would otherwise go to the bad.

667. What I want to get at is, how can you place these children afterwards?—That is considered to be a very successful branch of our work in Australia. Some twelve years ago the Victorian Government handed over to us the children who were under their control as wards of the State. They were sent to our different homes, which we avoid making like gaols. Fatherly and motherly men and women, who have great moral influence over the children, were placed in charge of the homes. The boys were taught farming and gardening chiefly, and the girls to make good domestics.

668. Is it not your opinion that many of these waifs and strays have turned out well afterwards?—There is no question about that. The Victorian Government is perfectly satisfied.

669. What is your experience? Is it that a large percentage of these people, if they got a chance of starting in life on the land again, would be only too glad to do so?—I should think they would.

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670. What percentage of them?—I should say the majority of them.

671. Have you any experience of the arrangements of the settlements in the United States of America?—No, nothing beyond what I have read in Rider Haggard's report.

672. You have not been there?—No.

673. Is there land settlement in connection with the Salvation Army in Australia?—There is not.

674. *Mr. Orpen.*] Is the management of the farm autocratic?—Yes.

675. *Mr. Cartwright.*] As the men go to the Social Farm, do you enter in a book their nationality?—Yes.

676. Would it be possible for you to supply us with a list from that book of the numbers of Poor Whites which belong to this Colony who have passed through the farm lately?—Yes.

677. Can you give us the same returns from the Workmen's Metropôle in town?—No. We do not keep the names of the people passing through there.

678. You know, of course, about the working of the Metropôle?—Yes.

679. Can you tell if there are many Poor Whites like those we have been speaking about who patronize that place?—No, there are not very many.

680. You will send us in reports from the farm?—Yes. I might explain that the better class of men we send to the farm, and the floating population we keep in town.

681. Can you in that direction give us the principal reasons for these people having to come to the farm?—Yes. I might mention that we have also got shelters at Kimberley, Port Elizabeth, East London, and Cape Town, and the indications are that there are not so many destitute persons as there were three or four years ago.

682. *Mr. Sauer.*] The idea of your shelters is to deal with these people just temporarily?—Yes. I understand that recently far more Dutch people come to us for help than was the case two or three years ago.

Mr. Dirk de Vos Rabie, M.L.A., examined.

683. *Chairman.*] You are a member of Parliament?—Yes.

684. Some years ago you visited the Labour Colony at Kakamas?—Yes.

685. And you handed in a report at the time?—Yes.

686. Did you go alone?—No, I was accompanied by Mr. Litchfield.

687. When was that?—About five years ago.

689. Was it before the war?—No, it was during the middle of the war.

690. At that time, how far had the furrow gone? Had they any irrigable land at that time?—Yes.

691. What class of people were working on the furrow?—Poor Whites. I think there were amongst them some poor farmers who had lost their land through misfortune. They did not seem to be Poor Whites, as we understand them.

692. How were they managed? Had they an overseer?—Mr. Kuys was the only man there. I do not think they had an overseer.

693. Were they quite willing to work?—Yes. But I found some of them in their houses about nine o'clock in the morning, not working.

694. They were men who were not engaged on the furrow work, but who had already had grants of land given them?—Yes.

695. Do you consider that six morgen of this irrigable land is sufficient to keep a man with a small family?—Yes. That is, land below water mark; but the land above water mark I do not care about.

696. You consider the land below water mark very good?—Yes.

697. Do you think a man can earn with a plot of the dimensions I have mentioned more than enough to keep his family?—Yes; that is, if the prices ruling for produce are anything like what they were when I was up there. The price for native corn then was £3.

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698. When I was up there the other day the price was from £2 to £2 5s. Do you know if that is the price ruling now?—I understood that the general price was about £3; I was told so by a clergyman.

699. I understand the land is very fertile?—Yes, it is, and a man with about six in family can easily live on the amount given to them.

700. Do you know if any provision is made up there for supervising the work?—No, I have not seen that any regulations with that object in view are in force. Of course, there are two ways of supervising—in the one way you just see if they are working in the proper way, and in the other you just see if they are working. When I was up there they might have had a supervisor, but I did not see him. They should have an instructor who would be able to tell them what to do.

701. Then you think it is necessary to teach the people up there by means of an instructor how to do the necessary work?—Yes, it is absolutely necessary.

702. And from what you have since heard, you think it is still necessary?—I certainly think it is necessary to have a practical man, who can act as leader and instructor.

703. Do you think it is advisable that the land should be sold to these settlers or that the ownership of the land should remain vested in the committee?—I think that the land should be leased to the people for the first few years at a cheap rate. Say, you make them give you one-third of the returns from the land; they can easily live on the other two-thirds. After a man gets rich the Committee must reserve to themselves the right to take the land from and give him some compensation for it, so that the other Poor Whites can also get a chance of making a living. The young men should be educated in industrial work.

704. So you would utilize the Labour Colony as a sort of training place, from which men would be turned out who knew all about farming?—Yes, but I would also have regulations in force by which

they could lease the land for a certain number of years, and at the end of that time, if they were still working at the place and keeping it in good order, they should have the right to buy it at a price that can eventually be fixed. Say a man gets rich or does not want to work his holding, and keeps a whole crowd of people on the farm, and does not do any work himself or does not let those on the farm with him do anything, then the Committee must have the right to tell him to leave, but they must pay him compensation.

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705. Do you know if there is a regulation at present in force in that Colony to the effect that you cannot have "bijwoners" or squatters on the holdings?—A man may have three sons and three daughters at present living with him, but in 20 or 25 years that family will have increased to almost 100.

706. You would take steps to prevent that?—I would take steps to put out the young men who are able to go.

707. But that will greatly depend on the education you give them?—Yes, and that is the reason why I think that if you have compulsory education for them you must also make it compulsory on some of them to learn trades.

708. Do you know that the school is held in the morning, and that in the afternoon the girls and boys go out in the fields and gather the beans and peas?—But are they taught to gather them properly? There must be strict supervision, and I do not care where the money to pay for it comes from, but I want it that when the work is being done that there shall be some one present who is able to supervise and instruct the youths how to do the work.

709. Providing that there is proper supervision, is it your opinion that this system to provide Labour Colonies for the Poor Whites should be extended?—Yes, but it must be extended in places that are near the railway line.

710. *Mr. Sauer.*] I understand there is a market for the produce they are able to produce?—Yes, but

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I do not know how the market is for dry fruits, but it is a good district for growing them.

711. All around is a dry country. I understand they can only produce where they irrigate?—But there is going to be a great output up there yet.

712. Do you think they will get a local market for their output?—There is not sufficient population up there for a good market.

713. But I thought you said they got £3 for corn?—So they did, but this might have been exceptional.

714. You always find that, with the exception of meat, that foodstuffs in the North-west are expensive?—Yes.

715. You said that the settlements must be near the railway line. Why?—You see, they must be at a place where they will find a market for their produce.

716. You say they must have supervision on these settlements?—Yes.

717. You had not an opportunity of going into the question of what supervision they now have?

—No. A certain number seem to think that sending their children to school, not drinking themselves, and occasionally going to church, and sleeping the rest of the time, is quite enough to do.

718. Were you sent up to inquire into the state of these people?—I had to inquire into the agricultural prospects.

719. And also the irrigation?—No.

720. Mr. Litchfield had a knowledge of that?—Yes.

721. Were you there long?—Only about three days.

722. In your neighbourhood, have you any of these Poor Whites?—Yes, I have had several of them on my farm. They were working on a dam I was making, but they did not care about the work.

723. *Mr. Cloete.*] What was the cause of their being Poor Whites?—They became Poor Whites because their parents were too proud to let them

learn any trade, or, in fact, they would not let them learn to work at all.

724. *Chairman.*] Do you not think that these Labour Colonies will do away with that sort of thing?—Yes, if there is compulsory labour education. The parents of these people do not care what they live on, but they are too proud to allow their boys or girls to learn how to work. These young fellows are too proud to work as ordinary day labourers—they all want to be “klein baases.”

725. Have you many of these Poor Whites now?—No. Last year I had between 20 or 30 on my irrigation works.

726. And have you many of them now?—No, they have all left; they do not care about hard labour.

727. What is your idea as to the best way of settling this Poor White question?—I think we must begin with the education of the children, and we must be careful on these settlements not to allow the Poor Whites to ride transport, and to take the children with them.

728. Do you think that in these settlements the authorities must have complete control over the children?—The authorities must undertake to purchase the surplus produce from these people, and thus prevent them from riding transport.

729. *Mr. Cloete.*] I judge from your evidence that you were not satisfied with what you saw at Kakamas?—At the time I was there they were making arrangements about this furrow, and things could not have been different.

730. *Chairman.*] With regard to the applicants for these plots, in making your selection, would you choose the best or the worst cases?—Why should you select the best cases? They can help themselves. I would select the worst cases.

731. *Mr. Cloete.*] You fear that unless the children are taught to work for themselves that the Poor Whites will greatly increase?—Yes, and these settlements will become what you may call breeding places for Poor Whites. You have got

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to get the children out to work. They learn how to calculate at school, but that is not everything.

732. *Mr. Abrahamson.*] I suppose you would give the Committee the right if a man got all these possibilities, and did not avail himself of them to their satisfaction, to put him out?—Yes, I think that is what should be done.

733. You say you would not allow them to take up possession of the land or to sell it?—Only with the permission of the Committee.

734. Do you not think it would be a good thing to hold out to them the prospects of becoming owners?—It certainly would encourage them, but I am afraid they might sell their places to the wrong men. I do not want to have the land transferred to anybody they like and who might be very undesirable.

735. You say that they ought to be able to supply their own requirements and also to supply the local market?—Yes, but they must have a market, if they only work just to supply their own requirements they will never become men.

736. Do you think the price you have quoted for wheat will continue?—I do not know if it will. I have not travelled much about that part of the country. To keep these people from transport-riding and to keep them on their farms the Committee ought to make arrangements to buy their produce from them.

737. *The Commissioner of Public Works.*] You are in favour of a Board of Control, in which the State should be represented, looking after this matter?—I mean either the State or the Church.

738. If the State support religious or charitable organizations and come to their assistance with funds, you think there should be a Board of Control in which they are represented. So long as a man is industrious and subscribes to reasonable regulations do you not think that he should have somebody to appeal to so that he could not be removed for, say, sectarian reasons?—Yes.

739. You would hold that so long as a man was industrious and did his work that he could not be ejected?—The State can settle that.

740. Subject to a man not being allowed to sell his holding, without the sanction of the Committee, you are agreeable to his being allowed to own it?—I have thought over that. Supposing there is a man who is rich enough not to work living on a holding, you will have to make arrangements to purchase from him so as to keep the thing rolling.

741. Your idea with regard to Kakamas is that there is not sufficiently strict supervision?—That is so, but at that time it could not be helped.

742. Your idea of strict supervision refers to the manner in which the tilling of the ground was carried out?—Yes.

743. You say you want the settlements near the railway line?—Yes, or else that the Committee shall have the right to purchase the produce straight off the land.

744. Would you have it so that the settlers can run stock?—I am not in favour of letting settlers run stock. I have seen a large number of these Poor Whites, and I do not think that having stock does them any good.

745. *Mr. Orpen.*] When you were up there did the settlers at Kakamas appear to be satisfied?—Yes, and some of them did very good work.

746. Is there a regulation in force that they cannot plant certain crops such as vines?—They can plant vines, but they are not allowed to make brandy.

747. Do you approve of that regulation?—Yes, they can make raisins, it is a very good place for dried fruits.

748. *Chairman.*] When you were there it was three years after the furrow had been commenced?—Yes.

749. And the settlement was not completed?—No.

750. And the school?—It was then being held in a tent.

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751. Since then you know the school has been completed, and the children are compelled to go to school?—Yes.

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752. Do you not think that the children being educated will settle the question as to what will become of them afterwards?—No, I do not know that that will solve the question. I have seen well-to-do farmers who could hardly sign their names, and I have seen people who have had excellent educations, Poor Whites.

753. You say that character must also be formed?—Yes.

754. And that will depend on the education you give them, which will not be mere book-learning?—Yes.

755. *The Commissioner of Public Works.*] Your general experience of Kakamas is that owing to the want of training they were not making as much out of the land as they should?—I have heard that they were getting 5,000 muids of corn out of the place, and if they are, then the land must be as valuable as the Achter Hex River. I am really in favour of showing the people up there by means of model plots exactly how to work. I do not believe in money being collected round the country for them. In my opinion it should be self-supporting.

756. *Chairman.*] Do you know that the money that has lately been collected is for the schools?—I do know.

757. Do you know that if a man cannot support himself out of his land he has to leave, as no financial assistance is given to him?—The reason why I thought that money should not be collected for them was because I thought their debt was only £6,000, but I now understand it is more.

Tuesday, 26th June, 1906.

PRESENT.

Mr. MALAN (Chairman).

Mr. Cloete.

Mr. H. S. van Zyl.

Mr. Abrahamson.

Mr. Orpen.

Dr. Thomas Muir, C.M.G., LL.D., M.A., F.R.S.,
examined.

758. *Chairman.*] You are the Superintendent-General of Education?—Yes.

759. You are aware that this Committee has been appointed to inquire into the Poor White Question. The Committee have taken the evidence of Miss Moller, the Matron of the Home for Indigent Children at Graaff-Reinet, established under Act 24 of 1895, and she stated in her evidence that she found it difficult to fill her institute. Can you give us some information as to the working of the institute?—I ought to explain, in the first place, that the Act you refer to does not come under the administration of the Education Department at all. It is an Act which was passed at the instance of Dr. de Water and Mr. Botha, and it was distinctly provided that the administration should be in the hands of the Colonial Office, but I have naturally taken an interest in the institute, and each time I have visited Graaff-Reinet I have gone to the institute unofficially, and am acquainted generally with everything happening there.

760. Have you anything to do with the admittance of the children?—Nothing at all. I think that at the present time there are over 20 children, and there is room for more. I know of difficulties which have occurred as to the admission of children, but none of them through Miss Moller. Miss Moller is very much devoted to her work, and she naturally asks everybody she comes across to assist the institution, and I have myself tried to help her as far as it was in my power to do so, because I

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believe that every child put under her charge is greatly benefitted.

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761. Does the Education Department assist financially in the payment of the salaries of the matron and teachers of the institution?—No ; that is done direct by the Colonial Office, and, of course, I think that system is a mistake, as it creates two bodies dealing with the same kind of work in Graaff-Reinet. Next door to Miss Moller's institution is a home of a similar character for girls, managed by the Education Department. I have seen the children in both the institutions—gone from one house to the other—and it is impossible to notice any difference in the character of the children, and I am of opinion that the best plan would be to unite the two establishments and work them on a more economical basis.

762 The school managed by your Department is not under the Act of 1895?—No.

763. Under what conditions do you work the institution?—Under the provisions in the regulations for educating indigent children. It is supposed that the children in Miss Moller's institution are of a lower type, that have been committed by the magistrate as waifs and strays ; in the institution managed by the Education Department this is not the case.

764. The children in Miss Moller's home, who have gone through the course, are indentured up to the age of 21 years?—Yes, for domestic service.

765. That is, of course, not the case in the institution under the Education Department?—Not necessarily.

766. Do you think that the experiment under your department has been a success?—No greater success there, but the scheme as a whole is a success ; that is to say, we have others in the country, whereas under the Act of 1895 Miss Moller's is the only school.

767. Your department has other institutions like the one at Graaff-Reinet elsewhere?—Yes, we can have children who receive the grant as indigent

children attached to any school. Besides, we have a large school of that special kind at Wellington, and it is a well-managed institution.

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768. Is it an institution for girls?—Yes. it is known as the Orphanage. June 26, 1906

769. Have you any others?—Yes. Homes at Grahamstown and elsewhere; we had another one at Wynberg, which, however, was not well managed and failed. I believe the Colonial Secretary's Department allows £18 per annum to each child in Miss Moller's school.

770. But Miss Moller cannot get more than that for the maintenance of her school, whereas in the case of your school you can give a grant for the maintenance of the teachers?—True, but I understood that Miss Moller is allowed her salary from the Colonial Office.

771. She gets a grant of £50?—Yes. if I understood her rightly, but she wanted to get £50 additional from the Colonial Office for a different purpose, namely, to go towards the upkeep of the institution and the additional children. Miss Moller's institution is a purely Government supported one, the local people practically do nothing. Now, I think it is a great discredit to our administration that we do not get the local people to take an interest in an institution of that kind. They take an interest of a sort, but do not contribute towards it as they should do, and if the school board at Graaff-Reinet had the power to utilize some of its funds to assist the school it would be beneficial.

772. *Mr. Abrahamson.*] Would that be the case if it came under the school board?—The Education Act does not provide that it should come under the school board; but it seems to me that the local school board should take an interest in the institution. I asked Miss Moller on the occasion of my last visit how much she got in contributions from the local people, and she told me that it varied from 15s. to £1 per quarter. The whole upkeep of the establishment is thus due entirely to the Government and Miss Moller.

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773. *Mr. H. S. van Zyl.*] You think that if the institution established under the Act of 1895 were to be placed under the Education Department, they could make a success of it?—I would not say that. It is not owing to bad administration; it is owing to the stupid system of having two separate administrations. Whenever you have two departments of the Government controlling the same object you do not get wise or economical administration.

774. And has your department had experience in this kind of thing?—The Graaff-Reinet case is a notorious case; there the two schools are next door to each other. Where the local people do not take any interest in the institution it is the duty of the Government to do so.

775. *Mr. Abrahamson.*] Would it require legislation to make the change?—I am not sure that it would.

776. *Chairman.*] Don't you think that if it is laid down in the Act of 1895 that it shall be administered by the Colonial Office direct it is necessary to alter it?—I don't think the word "direct" is used.

777. There is this difference between the two institutions: the children of the one are admitted by the magistrate or by an order from the Colonial Office. Would you keep up that system if you combined the two institutions?—In certain cases it might be necessary. I would not, however, bring the children before the magistrate unless it could not be helped. In those cases that come before the magistrate he would commit the children to a school of this kind; but the proper system would be for the local authorities to search and find out the children in question and deal with them before they reached the magistrate. If there were an intermediary like the school board, you would not have the stigma attaching to these children, who are really not to blame, the fault lying with the parents.

778. We had Mr. McJannett, the Superintendent of the Uitenhage Industrial School, before us the other day, and he gave some very satisfactory evidence, and we want to know what the position of this institution is with regard to your department?—It is entirely under the Education Department.

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779. What grants do you give?—We give grants for the teachers and also for the pupils.

780. Under the same regulations as the department's institution at Graaff-Reinet?—Yes. I have a report here (A. 11—1902, School Boards and Teachers, page 263) which gives a carefully written out abstract of the details of that institution; they date from the year 1892 when the first agitation arose. The history is there given of these schools, and the important point in it, which I think it is desirable to keep in view, is that we tried two different systems, as it was an experiment at the time. They were the first industrial schools ever tried, and one of them was on the lines of the Uitenhage school, where the boys live inside and get their instruction from skilled teachers inside the institution. The other was where the boys lived inside, and got their meals inside, but were apprenticed to outside traders. There could be no doubt about the result. The case where they were apprenticed outside ended in total failure.

781. Whereas, on the other hand, from what you know of the institution at Uitenhage it has been an entire success?—Yes, a marvellous success. I think Mr. McJannett deserves the greatest praise for the work he has done.

782. Do you think that this institution could be extended?—It might be extended, but I question whether it would be a wise thing to do so. If you extend it, you diminish the influence at work. After you get above a certain number, there is a saving financially, but you have to take into account that the influence of the Superintendent over, say, 500 boys would not be the same as over, say, 75 boys. I would favour establishing a similar

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institution in some other part of the country. As a matter of fact, we start a similar institution at Adelaide on the 16th of next month, and it promises already to be successful. I heard from Mr. van Wyk that 28 boys were already enrolled, and that reminds me of one thing that I was forced to keep saying in the early days, namely, that we do not give the problem a fair chance so long as we do not have trained men. It is the old story of being unable to get men who know their work ; unfortunately some people have an objection to getting trained men from Europe, and we were not in a position to train the men ourselves. This is slightly altered now, for a gentleman of the name of Liebenberg has been trained at Uitenhage under Mr. McJannett, and he has filled the situation at Adelaide.

783. You do not agree with Mr. McJannett that an additional expenditure of £2,000 would enable him to take in double the number of inmates ?—I do not doubt that at all, but I question the wisdom of doing it. Mr. McJannett is an enthusiast at his work, and he naturally wants to make a greater success.

784. What are the steps that have to be taken in starting an institution of this kind ? — The necessary steps are first of all taken by some local body. In the case of Uitenhage, it was the Dutch Reformed Church who started the idea, but the one man who deserves the credit of having carried it out is Mr. Pienaar, who is very liberal-minded in regard to education and greatly interested in education. Another Presbytery took the thing up at Adelaide, and the municipality there gave about 27 acres of ground. But in Uitenhage you have the same story as you have in Graaff-Reinet : there is no local contribution, and the place is run by the Education Department and the Superintendent free of cost to anybody.

785. *The Commissioner of Public Works.*] Should the State contribute for the advancement of this industrial education of poor children ; do you

think that those institutions should be absolutely under the control of the State, and that one of the first principles should be that the teachers should be trained?—Yes, trained like every one else for their special profession. If the State contributes the whole amount, then the State ought to have the management of the institution, not that it would not be better to have the local people interested, but then they must show their interest by contributions; and I do not mean individual local people only, but local boards also. What is a school board for but to take an interest in work of that kind? Besides, it would be a relief to the Education Department to find such local interest taken.

786. And if the local board was prepared to take them over, you would allow them grants?—Most distinctly, and it is only right that they should take the management. I think, however, that putting an amateur in charge of an institution of that kind is to court ruin.

787. I take it from your evidence that you would not be in favour of State contributions to the children of those schools who receive training outside?—I do not think it would be advisable.

788. *Mr. H. S. van Zyl.*] In the case of the institution at Adelaide, I believe there is a local fund in support of the institution?—Yes, there is a local fund to last for five years, contributed to by the different congregations. And that is the result of experience learned in dealing with Uitenhage; I would not enter on the negotiations at Adelaide until I found that the local people were going to do something, and they have come forward liberally. The amount proposed to be contributed by the Presbytery is between £400 and £500 per annum for five years. The one risky thing about it is this, that there may be a change of opinion later on, and we may find ourselves stranded at the end of the five years.

789. But if the institution turns out a success at the end of five years, there will be less need for it?—Yes, less.

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790. The children in those institutions are those whose parents cannot afford to pay at all?—Yes, supposed to be unable to pay. That is another point which has been the cause of a great deal of trouble in the administration—the selection of the children. In many cases children have been selected who had well-to-do parents; and if the affair is to be well managed in the future, the greatest pains should be taken to arrive at the history of the children. I knew of a case at Port Elizabeth where one man, a mechanic, fairly well-to-do, wanted to get his boy into the Uitenhage school. He knew that the boy would receive a good training there.

791. You do not take any paying pupils?—No. In the case I have just mentioned at Port Elizabeth the man did not want to pay anything at all; he wanted to get his boy educated for nothing.

792. Even if he wanted to pay, his boy would not have been taken in?—No.

793. There is no institution for the children of parents who can afford to pay?—No. I do not think it would be wise to interfere with the ordinary arrangements. It is a difficult question whether the State is to take up the position of doing the work that can be done by ordinary tradesmen.

794. People who are poor, but who could afford to pay something, are really in a worse position with regard to their children than those who cannot pay at all?—Yes, seemingly we treat the others so well that they think they have cause for complaint.

795. There should be some institution for those people who are poor, but who could afford to pay something?—That is a subject for consideration. In some countries where the state is looked to to do what in other countries would be left to individual enterprise, they have schools for such ordinary children.

796. As regards the institution at Uitenhage, I may explain that McJannett will not have the

same supervision if the institution is extended, but if it was extended he could have someone to assist him and train men?—Supposing that McJannett could have assistants of the same type as himself, and put one in charge of, say, 40 boys, and another in charge of another 40 boys, and so on, it would be workable no doubt, but I question whether it is not better to have one at Adelaide, one in the Western Province, and so on, scattering them up and down the country.

797. From an economic point of view that would be better?—Yes, it would be better.

798. You have great faith in the personal contact of the superintendent with his pupils?—Yes.

799. You think it is desirable to have one big institution where you could have men trained under a man like McJannett, and who would be able to establish other institutions elsewhere?—Yes. Mr. Liebenberg will make arrangements for training a man under him, when his place grows, and Mr. McJannett is going to have two men for training purposes.

800. *Mr. Abrahamson.*] What is the machinery for the selection of these children?—Strictly speaking, there is no authorized machinery. When it comes to be known that there is such an institution, and when any leading person, and more especially a clergyman or magistrate, is going about the district and comes across neglected children, he may take a personal interest in them, make inquiries, and get an application form filled in.

801. Then, there is this difficulty, that children whose parents can afford to pay obtain admission to those institutions?—Not if I can help it, but it causes a lot of trouble, and it is very disagreeable. One makes enemies by ferreting out the affairs of private people and it does harm to the institution. I think it would be better if my suggestion about the school boards were carried out, as this would throw the onus on the local people, who know all the circumstances, and not on one

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individual. Suppose a member of the board becomes interested in a case of destitute children, he would bring the case before the board, and probably many of the members would know the circumstances of the children in question.

802. How would the system of school boards work with regard to settlements of poor whites, such as it is contemplated to establish on the land? —I could not speak of that, as I have had no experience.

803. *The Commissioner of Public Works.*] Do you think that the school boards should be responsible for a certain amount for the upkeep of the institutions?—Yes.

804. What provision would you make if you had the larger schools which would have transferred to them children from other areas?—That would be unfair upon the area where the institution is situated. You have that same question in connection with training schools. The training school at Wellington, for instance, trains teachers for the whole country, and why should it be supported by Wellington alone? The better arrangement would be this, to have a certain number of school boards unite and let each one contribute to the central institution in proportion to the number of pupils sent.

805. You think that if the local boards give a certain contribution they would be more careful to find out the history of the children?—Yes.

806. *Chairman.*] On the other hand, you would not forget that the first duty is to educate these children, and that if you can get a man who is going to pay, the State would keep on assisting in the future?—Yes, but the *mode* in which it should be done is also the State's consideration, and it would be a great mistake to leave out the local people.

807. *Mr. H. S. van Zyl.*] Apart from these industrial schools, is it your opinion that in order to raise the poor whites the children must be educated?—Yes.

808. Have the poor white schools established throughout the country been a success?—Only to this extent that owing to these institutions, we have a certain number of children partly educated who would not otherwise have been educated at all, and that in itself is an advantage. It is a pity that we have not more control over the parents themselves, because they are not very careful about seeing that the children attend the school regularly and stay at the school until they get a fair education. The poor schools ought to profit more than any other schools by means of the institution of school boards, because I hope ultimately that the school board would insist on these children attending school.

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809. I notice in your report that only one out of thirty-five ever reach the fourth standard?—Yes. It would not be fair, however, to say that this is the fault of the school. It is owing rather to the feeling about education among that class of people. The more the Government does, the more the people are likely to get demoralized. I would not ask, for example, that the local contribution should equal the Government contribution, but let the people themselves take at least an interest in the school.

810. *Mr. Abrahamson.*] With regard to education in the poor white settlements, could you give us any advice later on?—I do not think there ought to be any difficulty in dealing with education in those cases. We have such a case at Kakamas where considerable progress has been made.

811. *The Commissioner of Public Works.*] That is a third class public school?—Yes, the school at Kakamas is exceedingly interesting. At the commencement it was difficult to get the children to school; but, fortunately, the man in charge was one who also interested himself in the children outside of teaching. The central school thus ultimately prospered, and it was found necessary to start another school at Kakamas East, and then a

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third one was started at Kakamas West on the same lines. Fortunately, we have, as yet, not had much difficulty in getting capable teachers to go there, and there is also a young minister there, Mr. Hofmeyr, who takes a great interest in the children.

812. *Mr. Abrahamson.*] And these schools are under the school board?—Not yet, but they will be under the school board. They are at present administered by the Education Department.

813. *The Commissioner of Public Works.*] But they will come under the school board eventually?—Yes.

814. *Mr. Cloete.*] And the other poor schools will also come under the school boards?—Yes, all of them, but we will not see the benefit of their coming under the school boards for a little time.

(At this stage the Chairman vacated the chair, and the Commissioner of Public Works took the chair).

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815. *Acting Chairman.*] You are a member of the House of Assembly?—Yes.

816. You desire to make a statement in connection with the poor white question?—Yes. The poor white question, as you know, has been before the country for a considerable time, and I have always taken a great interest in the matter. I visited Kakamas during the beginning of last May, where an experiment had been made, and which has proved successful. I look at the difficulty of the poor white question largely as one of how to centralize these people. As long as the poor whites live on isolated farms or even in villages, where, owing to their social conditions and other things, they live isolated among the people, as long as that condition prevails it is practically impossible to improve them in any way. The first thing is to bring them together, and under social influences. The reason why the poor white man retrogrades in this land is largely

owing to his being socially alone and not being in contact with other human beings. He is not fit for the struggle of life so long as he can trek off into the wilds of Africa. It is true he makes a good pioneer, but when the struggle for existence becomes more intense, and he has to settle down you find that the man has lost that aptitude to live alongside his fellow men and work for his bread, and has lost also his self-respect. At Kakamas, as an example, you have about 130 families drawn from different parts of the country and they are brought together, they meet one another regularly, they go to church, they have their meetings to discuss the work of the settlement, they have their debating societies for the grown up children, and for the younger children they have their schools, and in that way, apart from anything else, the social effects of that labour colony is very great. But to make it a success, when you have a collection of people of that kind, you want efficient supervision. Now at Kakamas, they have a superintendent, who was specially selected for the work. He is not paid according to his capacity, or according to the work he does, but he is an enthusiast with a great love for the work, which is the essential thing to all these undertakings. The principal reason why I think that institutions of this kind should be started by religious bodies and not by the State, is because if it is started by the State you lose that moral, religious enthusiasm that drives people to such work, and it is essential for the success of the institution that that enthusiasm should be enlisted. Mr. Hofmeyr is at present the Superintendent both of the moral side and the temporal side of the institution. That I think is a mistake, and the matter should be rectified as soon as possible, because in dealing with the spiritual side he is not in a position to deal so successfully with the temporal interests of such an institution, and if he pays particular attention to the temporal side I think his moral influence will suffer. When you

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have to deal with such a class of people the temporal supervision is of great importance. At Kakamas, for instance, they must be taught carefully how to cultivate the soil so as to prevent brak ; they must plant hedges everywhere in order to prevent washaways in times of flood ; they require supervision in order to live under proper sanitary conditions, keep the water furrow from the top to the bottom perfectly clean, and so on, and for that purpose they require a Superintendent to tell them what must be done and who is to carry out the work, and enforce the punishments laid down under the regulations. The Superintendent should have the power, under supervision, to tell a man that if he does not do what is necessary he must leave the settlement. It is for these reasons I hold that in dealing with the poor white question we should introduce a religious body which would undertake a work of this kind, and that the State should step in and by sympathy and financial assistance help them as much as possible, but it must not be done in such a way that the moral enthusiasm, which is the driving force of these institutions, should be taken away. The object of a labour colony should not be, in the first instance, to have an irrigation work or a settlement on the land, but the settlement should be a means to an end, the end being the education of the people, and more especially of the younger generation. There are three schools at Kakamas. In the principal school there are over 200 children, and if any man doubts the advisability of starting these colonies let him visit that school, and see the change that has come over the countenances of the children through being in a comfortable building and having proper teaching. Then there is a second school in a thatched building with 90 children, and a third school in a tent with 30 children. One of the conditions of the settlement is compulsory education. At first that was rather difficult to carry out, but it is now working successfully. The children go to school from 9,

with a break at 11, until 1 o'clock, and in the afternoon they work in the fields and assist their parents in the ploughing, etc. They have not got an industrial school at Kakamas yet, which I greatly deplore. The reason is the same one why they have not separated the spiritual and temporal superintendence, namely, want of funds. This labour colony is an undoubted success, and if you take into consideration the three years, when everything was at a standstill owing to the war, they have gone a long way indeed, but I do not deny that there is a great deal of scope for improvement and development. I hope that at Kakamas they will have two boarding schools in the near future, one for boys and one for girls, so as to draw the children from the neighbourhood and give them an education, and have them long enough in the school so as to provide pupil teachers and train teachers for the north-western districts, which, I believe, would be a great boon indeed. Lastly, I think that the labour colony at Kakamas can be extended in two directions. The furrow on the south side of the river could be taken through the Haartebeeste River so as to irrigate from 30 to 40 plots on the Haartebeeste River Farm, which belongs to Government, but which is now rented as a cattle run, and, as such, is not of much value, but, if irrigated, would be of considerable value to the settlement, and I believe that Parliament and the Government would bestow a great boon on the labour colony if they could facilitate the acquirement of this farm by the settlement so as to settle 30 families almost immediately. Another way of extending the establishment would be by building a furrow on the north side of the river. The farms there have been bought up by the Committee of the labour colony. They had to do that because they were private farms, and if they had fallen into the hands of undesirable people, canteens might have been started just across the river, which would have destroyed the value of the settlement. These

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farms cost, I believe, about £7,000. There is an island in the river on the north side, called Paarde Island ; whether this island still belongs to Government or forms part of the farms opposite is an open question. The main stream of the river undoubtedly runs south of that island, and I do not know whether this island has been included in the survey of these farms on the north side. This furrow, I am informed, if the island is not given to the colony, would have to go over difficult ground, whereas, if it is taken by the island it will be possible to settle a large number of families on it.

817. What is the size of the island ?—I think it is nine miles long, and about 1,000 morgen in extent.

818. *Mr. Abrahamson.*] Is it ever inundated ?—All the islands in the river have a high-water mark, and all the erven of the labour colony fall into two parts. You have the building erf, which is above high-water mark, and the irrigable soil, which is below high-water mark. The Government have sent down an engineer, Mr. Crowther, to survey this north furrow. Mr. Gordon was there recently, and he made an inspection, and Mr. Lutz, who built the south furrow, and who is a very practical man, has been there to make up an estimate with regard to the cost of the furrow. The report will be laid before the Government shortly, and if it is satisfactory, and if the Government and Parliament should arrange to let the colony have this island, which is of no value without irrigation, and can only be irrigated by means of this new furrow, it would be a good extension of the work. To sum up, I think that if we could start in other parts of the country, not necessarily irrigation colonies, but colonies of that kind, we could bring the people together and educate their children. Possibly, that is to a large extent the solution of the poor white question in this country, together with the establishment of industrial schools.

819. A large number of these children at Kakamas would probably have no education at all but

for the settlement?—That is so. I am sorry to say that the School Board Act will not meet the difficulty completely, because when the children live on the farms in the sparsely populated parts of the Colony, they live outside the three miles radius, and there are no schools, even if compulsory education is enforced, under the School Board Act, that alone will not solve the problem.

820. Do the pupils at these schools pay anything at all?—I am not sure, but I think it is on the footing of a poor school, which is very likely, because these people have to build their houses at the time of the settlement and prepare the soil for cultivation, and they would not be in a position to pay anything for fees.

821. Some of the people at Kakamas have materially improved in position?—Yes, those who had something to start with, and who could afford to pay for the levelling of their ground.

822. There is no system of giving them an advance of money?—Not at present.

823. Do you think it would be advisable to do so?—Yes, I think so, but it must be under supervision, and under strict conditions. The idea must not be cultivated in these people that they get the advance for charity sake. There must be a condition that they work on the settlement.

824. *Mr. Cloete.*] Where is their market?—That part of the Orange River is the only place where you can really grow anything from an agricultural point of view. North and south you have a wide extent of cattle runs; the inhabitants cannot grow things locally; they used to import their vegetables and grain from the coast, so that the Orange River settlement would have an excellent market north and south of the river and in German South-West Africa.

825. The population is very scattered?—Yes, but it is a very wide stretch of country.

826. *Mr. Abrahamson.*] If the settlement is extended in the manner you contemplate, how many people could be located there?—There are at

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present 130 families on the south side, and with the extensions I have suggested, I think they would settle nearly 400 families.

827. You do not think that these families would develop such an amount of supplies that there would be a difficulty in getting a market?—That may be so in the long run, but the extension of the railway from Prieska along the river would assist in developing the market.

828. *Mr. H. S. van Zyl.*] What is the chief source of produce at the present time?—Grain and beans. There is the difficulty of brak along the river, which can be avoided by draining the ground properly, and keeping the drains clean. As far as I know, no official investigation has been made as to the cause of the brak. There was an analysis of the soil at Steynsburg for the Thebus irrigation scheme, but nothing has been done along the Orange River. The samples brought down by me have been analysed, but they were not in sufficient quantity to enable the analyst to come to a definite opinion. I think that if the soil of those parts were analysed, with a view of establishing the causes of the brak, it would be of great benefit to the people.

829. *Mr. Abrahamson.*] Is there any difficulty in getting the people to come to the settlement?—No. When the settlement first started the people were offered work at 3s. per day, and they had the option afterwards of taking an erf.

830. How do you propose to complete the furrow on the north side?—On the same conditions; they will be paid the same amount.

831. *Mr. Orpen.*] With reference to the regulations in force at Kakamas, were they approved by the Government?—I do not think so.

832. Do you think they should be?—It depends in how far the Government supports an institution of this kind. The Government has only advanced £3,500 on loan to complete the furrow on the south side, apart from giving Kakamas and Zoetap.

833. Do you think that in an institution of that kind, supported by Government, the regulations should be approved by Government?—I think that if the Government undertake a work of this kind it would require a set of model regulations, which could be submitted to the institution and modified according to local conditions.

834. Is it advisable to allow people with capital to settle down in these colonies?—When I said people with capital, in answer to a previous question, I did not mean that they were rich people. A man, for instance, may have 100 sheep, but he may have just sufficient money to pay a labourer to level his ground.

835. You would not confine it to people who are absolutely destitute?—I would rather confine it to the people who are destitute, and whose children have not got a chance of being educated. A man who is in a town in the neighbourhood of a school, and who can get sufficient work to keep body and soul together, should not have his case taken into consideration first. I would rather consider the man who lives far away from a school. I do not want to assist these people so much because they are poor, as because I believe it would be a burden for the State to see their children grow up under conditions which would not make them useful citizens.

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APPENDIX.

[A.]

RULES FOR THE LABOUR COLONY AT KAKAMAS SOUTH.

(TRANSLATION.)

1. The administration of the Labour Colony is and remains in the hands of the Commission appointed by the Synod, and this has under it a local Commission of Superintendence, with a superintendent or inspector in charge.

2. Every white (person) with a family, who is able to work, and can produce a certificate of poverty together with one of good conduct, shall be allowed to settle in the Colony. Applications from Kenhardt and Gordonias will be forwarded to the convener by our missionary, the Rev. C. Schroeder. Applications from other divisions of the country are sent to the convener through the local minister. Those who help in making the water furrow will have the preference.

3. The Labour Colony Commission bears all expenses in connection with the work, pays labourers at the rate of three shillings per day, permits free grazing to those who possess a few large or small stock, and provides provisions and clothing at the lowest possible prices.

4. The agricultural lands will be divided into erven and distributed in lots. The extent of each erf will be about six or seven morgen. Each applicant will have the right to exchange his lot with that of another colonist, within fourteen days after assignment, if his lot should not suit him.

5. The assigned land or garden erven remain the property of the colonist so long as his behaviour is good. He will have the privilege to nominate his successor subject to the approval of the Commission, and on the understanding that such successor conforms to the rules.

6. Building erven will be assigned by the superintendent.

7. On confiscation the Commission will pay compensation for buildings only, according to the valuation of three disinterested persons.

8. Each erf-holder is bound to keep his ground free from "kweek" and other noxious weeds. Negligence in this matter is looked upon as a breach of the rules.

9. The outer wire fence is made by the Commission, which reserves the right to cut poles for this object on any erf. The preservation of this fence is the duty of the erf-holders. Gates must be made by the erf-holders. Where this duty is neglected the work will be done by the Commission at the cost of the party at fault.

10. The rent is due on the 15th January of each year.

11. The preservation of the water furrow is the joint duty of the erf-holders. In case of neglect to furnish labourers, the wages due must be paid according to current tariff in force at the beginning of the year.

12. The polluting of the water furrow is prohibited.

13. The right to impound is not allowed where the fence is in a bad condition, except in the case of small stock. Pigs may be shot.

14. Each erf-holder may allow his stock (large or small) to graze on the general grazing land.

15. Squatters, tramps, or "leegleggers" are not allow to enter the Colony.

16. The following special regulations must be paid attention to by all :—

(a) The Christian celebration of the Sunday must be observed by all.

(b) Indolence and disorder are forbidden, as also un-Christian-like and scandalous diversions. Decision on this point is in the hands of the superintendent.

(c) Drunkenness, swearing, and foul language are strictly prohibited.

(d) Compulsory education will be maintained.

(e) Each erf-holder will have to remain inside the limits of his erf, and avoid all annoyances to his neighbours.

(f) All disputes are subject to the decision of the administration.

17. The person who receives one erf is expected to work it himself, and he shall not have the power to part with same or portion thereof, or to lease without special consent.

18. The sale of liquor on any erf is strictly prohibited.

19. In the practice of discipline and the maintenance of order, and in the event of the breach of the rules, or insubordination to the superintendent, the Commission will have the right to avail itself of the following means of punishment :

(1) Personal warning.

(2) Fine of not more than £5 (Five Pounds) in each specific case.

(3) Expulsion from the Colony.

I, the undersigned

.....bind myself to the faithful adherence to these rules, as well as to such as the Head Commission may from time to time enforce for the general welfare,

and, in the event my being guilty of misconduct, to abide by the decision of the Commission in each such case without recourse to a court of justice.

[B.]

LETTER FROM W. McJANNETT *RE*-ADMISSIONS
TO UITENHAGE INSTITUTE.

Industrial School, Uitenhage,
26th June, 1906.

F. S. Malan, Esq., M.L.A.,
Cape Town.

Sir,—The number of lads who have served an apprenticeship of three years and upwards, from 1st April, 1898 to 26th June, 1906, is sixty-one. As no Admission Register was kept till April, 1898, I am unable to say what number was in training from 1895 to that date, but I should think not more than thirty.

I have, etc.,

W. McJANNETT.

[C.]

LETTER FROM SUPERINTENDENT-GENERAL OF
EDUCATION AS TO UITENHAGE INDUSTRIAL
SCHOOL.

Department of Public Education,
Cape Town, 5th July, 1906.

F. S. Malan, Esq., M.L.A.,
House of Assembly,
Cape Town.

Dear Mr. Malan,—The Education Department did not contribute anything of the original cost of the buildings on the site of the Uitenhage Industrial School, these buildings being originally a wagonmaker's or similar tradesman's place. When, however, it was found necessary to erect additional accommodation and the Department was debarred from granting a loan, aid was given by way of rent to the extent of £55 p.a.; the property is vested in the Graaff-Reinet Presbytery of the Dutch Reform Church.

I am, etc.

THOS. MUIR.

